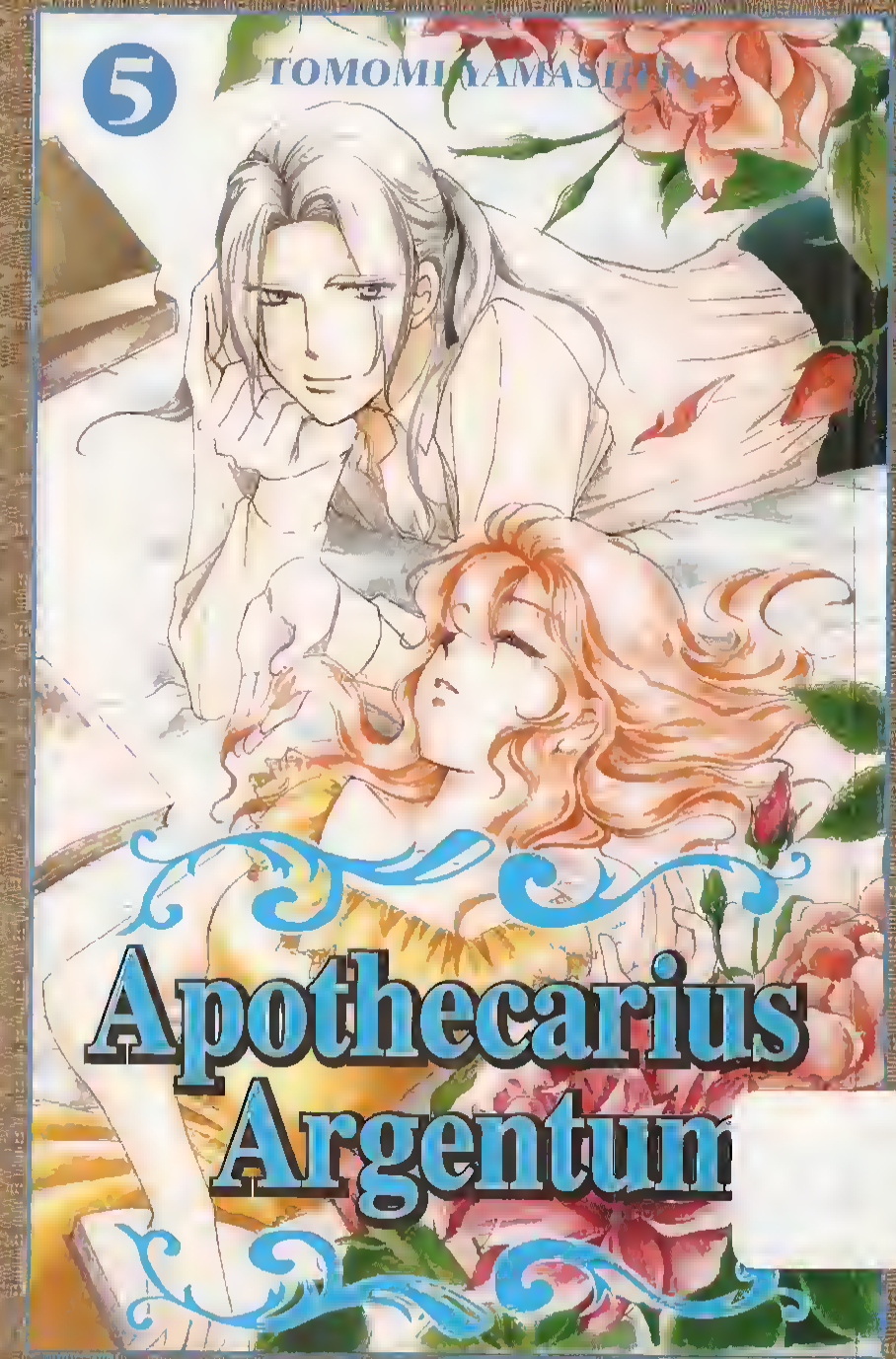
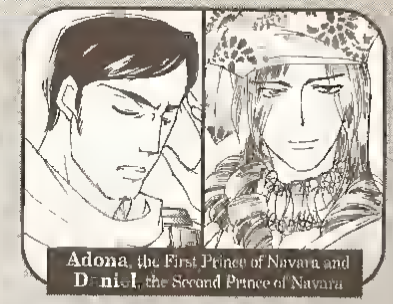

5
TOMOMI YAMASHITA
Apothecarius
Argentum

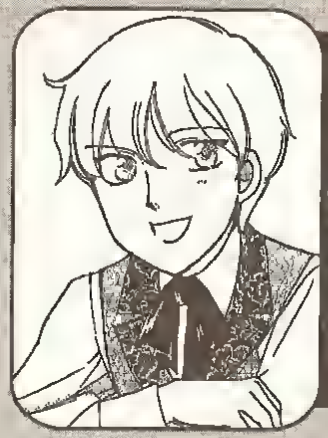
Apothecarius Argentum

Volume 5

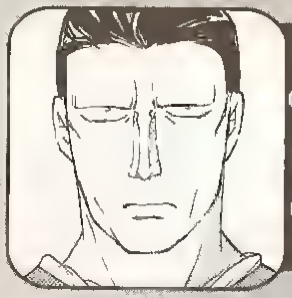
By Tomomi Yamashita



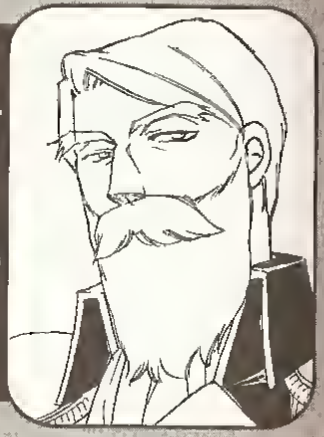
Adona, the First Prince of Navara and **Daniel**, the Second Prince of Navara



Lorca
The Prince of Navara, a neighboring kingdom. He wants to marry Lady Primula.



Carbeau
Lady Primula's Martial Arts Instructor



King of Beazol
He's known as a ruthless ruler, but he loves his daughter dearly.

Garna
The royal chef.

Argent was fed poison during his youth to build his tolerance and to turn him into the ultimate assassin. The King of Beazol bought Argent to be the food taster for his young daughter. However, the Princess freed Argent and instructed him to flee from the palace.

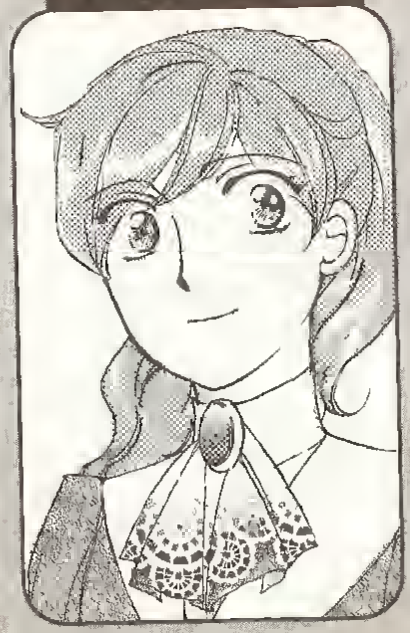
Several years later (and as the start of our story) Argent reappeared as a skilled healer and saved the Princess from an assassination attempt. As a result, he was promoted to the position of Royal Apothecary. Along with Soda, his apprentice, Argent works tirelessly for both the Princess and the people.

One day, Prince Lorca from Navara crashed a party and proposed to Lady Primula! Unfortunately, Lorca was besieged by an unknown illness plaguing his home country. Argent and friends traveled to Navara to discover the cause of the illness. However, the King of Navara was assassinated during their stay, prompting Beazol and Navara to quickly move to create a peace treaty. Argent also discovered that there was a possibility that he could find a cure to his body's toxicity.

Apothecarius Argentum

Character Introductions
and the story so far

Lady Primula
The daughter of the King of Beazol. She's a strong-minded woman, known as the "Princess of Steel."



Argent
The Royal Apothecary and Lady Primula's former food taster

Carli
Lady Primula's etiquette instructor

Soda
Argent's assistant and pupil

A Few days after the peace treaty between Beazol and Navara.
PEACE FOR BEAZOL AND NAVARA!
HURRAY!
THE KING AND LADY PRIMULA!!
WELCOME BACK!!
KYAAAAH! IT'S ARGENT THE APOTHECARY!
WHAT?! THE PRINCESS AND THE SILVER APOTHECARY?!
IT'S TOO BAD THAT HER WEDDING TO THE PRINCE OF NAVARA WAS CANCELLED.
IT'S BEEN A RUMOR FOR A WHILE.
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...
THE OFFICIAL WORD IS THAT THE PRINCE WITHDREW, BUT I HEAR...

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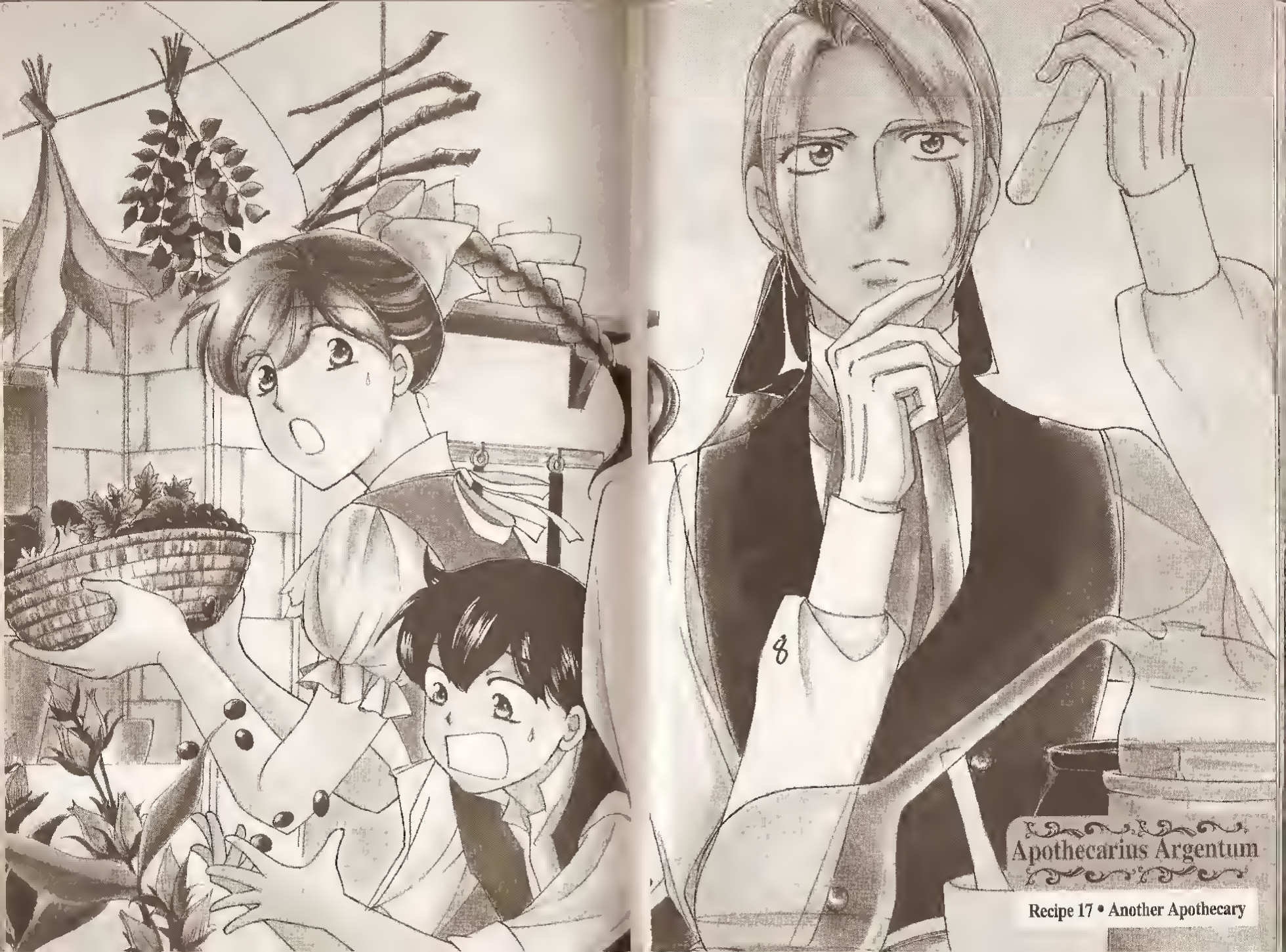
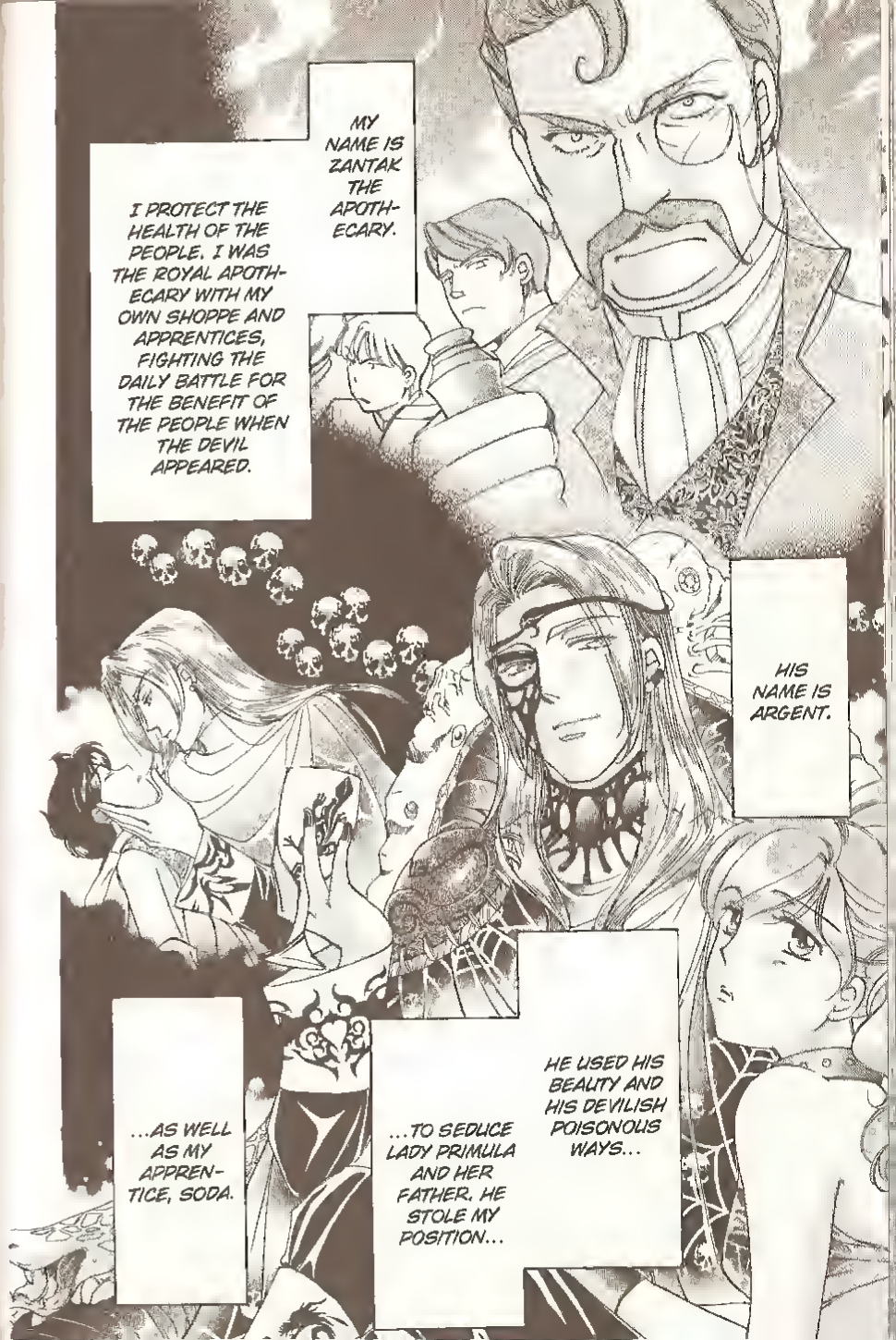

Apothecarius Argentum
Recipe 17 • Another Apothecary

WHY?
SHOVE
UHM WELL ...
THAT'S BECAUSE, UH...
...THROW A ROCK AT THE APOTHECARY?
LITTLE BOY, DID YOU...
I'M SORRY!
NO NEED TO RUN AWAY.
I DON'T LIKE THE APOTHECARY OR HIS APPRENTICE, EITHER.
WE'RE HIS APPRENTICES.
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M THE FORMER ROYAL APOTHECARY. MY NAME'S ZANTAK.

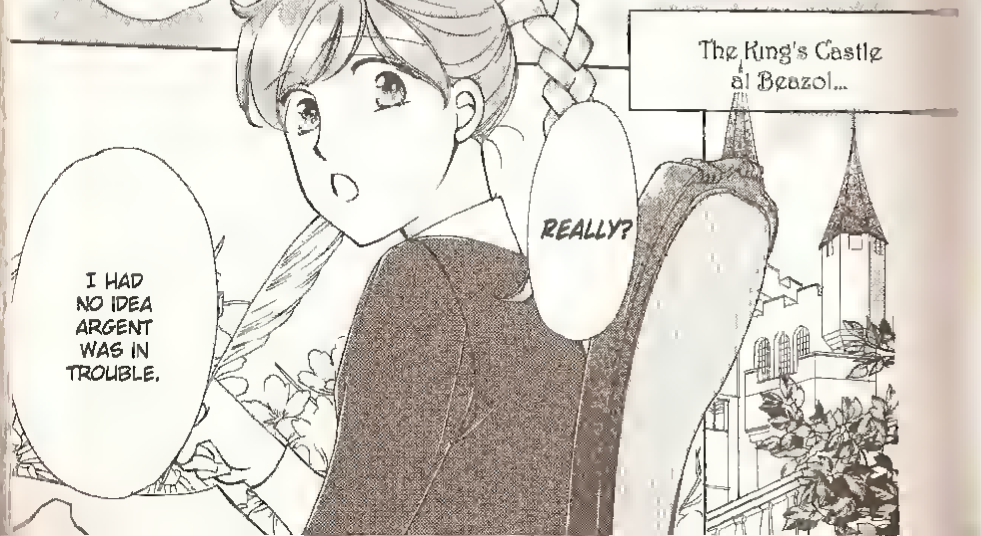
OVER HERE! LOOK THIS WAY, SILVER APOTHECARY!
HE WAS ABLE TO CURE THE PLAGUE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY!
NO WONDER HE'S THE ROYAL HEALER!
SNACK
BE A LITTLE MORE FRIENDLY, WHY DON'TCHA?
DON'T BE SO COLD, MASTER!
DASH
I WISH THEY HADN'T COME BACK!
Did someone throw a rock at me?
???

I DON'T LIKE APOTH-ECARIES.
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO FOOL ME! I'LL FIGHT THE RIGHTEOUS BATTLE 'TIL THE END!
THE DAMNED *PEACE TREATY!* THE DEVIL MUST HAVE SEDUCED THE PEOPLE OF NAVARA AS WELL!
THEY ALWAYS GIVE ME YUCKY MEDICINE.
BUSINESS IS SO SLOW, YOU CAN HEAR THE BIRDS CHIRPING.
DON'T WORRY, KIDDO!
IT'S GOING TO TAKE TOO LONG.
WAIT HERE FOR A MINUTE. IF YOU WANT...
...I CAN MAKE YOU MEDICINE THAT TASTES BETTER.
...
...I'LL GO WITH YOU.
IN THAT CASE...


MY NAME IS ZANTAK THE APOTH-ECARY.
I PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE. I WAS THE ROYAL APOTH-ECARY WITH MY OWN SHOPPE AND APPRENTICES, FIGHTING THE DAILY BATTLE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE WHEN THE DEVIL APPEARED.
HIS NAME IS ARGENT.
HE USED HIS BEAUTY AND HIS DEVILISH POISONOUS WAYS...
...TO SEDUCE LADY PRIMULA AND HER FATHER. HE STOLE MY POSITION...
...AS WELL AS MY APPREN-TICE, SODA.

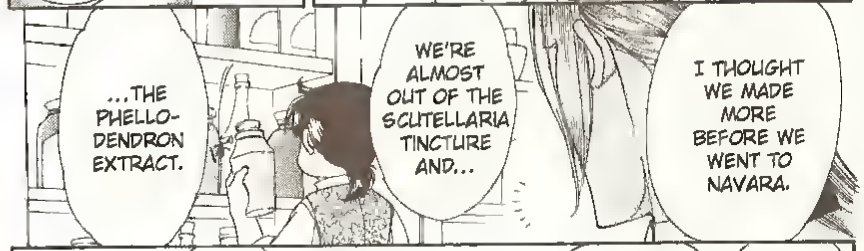
MASTER, I'LL GO TO THE MARKET AND BUY DRIED HERBS.
WE ALSO DON'T HAVE TIME TO PREPARE THE HERBS.
WE DON'T WANT HIM TO DEVELOP AN ULCER FROM THE LACK OF MEDICINE.
IT'LL BE OKAY! I KNOW THE MARKET. THEY HAVE QUALITY STUFF!
BUT...

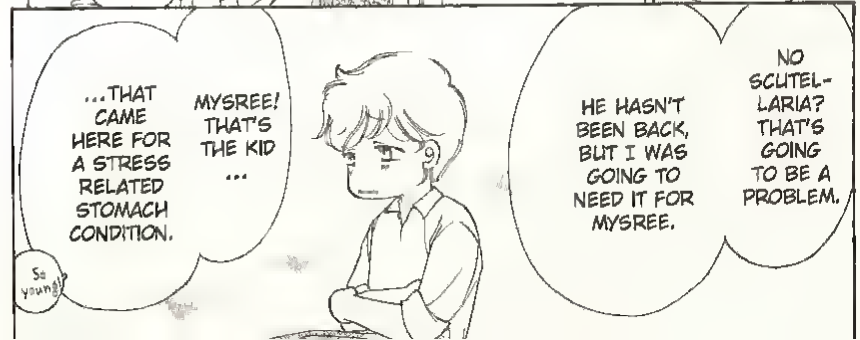
I'M ALMOST OUT OF ASTRINGENT!
CAN YOU RETURN TO THE CASTLE AND SEND GARNA OVER HERE?!
CARL!!
THAT CAN WAIT! HURRY!


The King's Castle at Beazol...
REALLY?
I HAD NO IDEA ARGENT WAS IN TROUBLE.

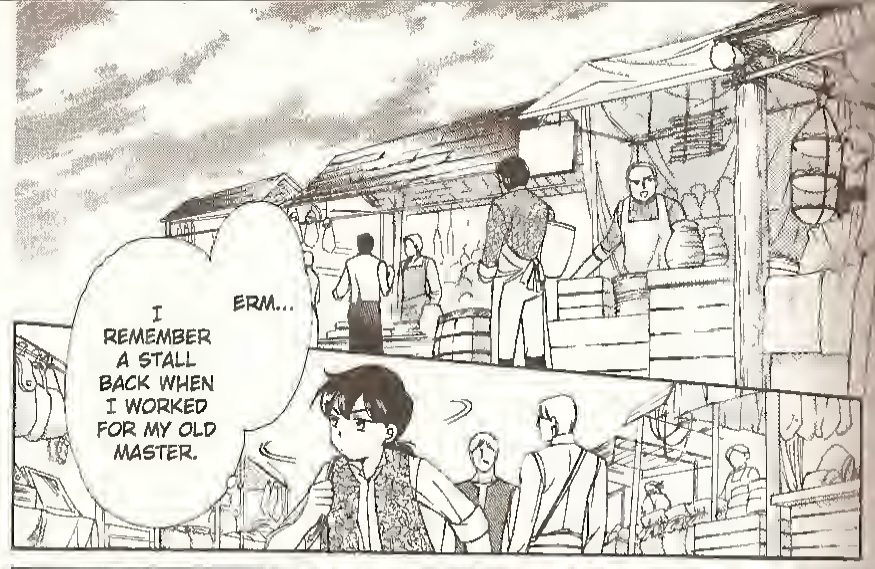
Royal Apothecary Argent's shop...

WE'LL SEE EVERYONE EXCEPT EMERGENCIES IN THE ORDER THEY ARRIVED.
MASTER, IT'S EMPTY.
SODA, I NEED THE CALENDULA TINCTURE.
WE HAVE 30 PEOPLE WAITING.


...THE PHELLODENDRON EXTRACT.
WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF THE SCUTELLARIA TINCTURE AND...
I THOUGHT WE MADE MORE BEFORE WE WENT TO NAVARA.

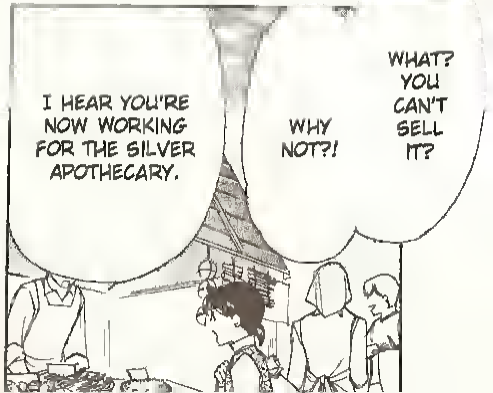

...THAT CAME HERE FOR A STRESS RELATED STOMACH CONDITION.
MYSREE! THAT'S THE KID ...
So young!
HE HASN'T BEEN BACK, BUT I WAS GOING TO NEED IT FOR MYSREE.
NO SCUTELLARIA? THAT'S GOING TO BE A PROBLEM.

I FORGOT. THAT ISSUE HASN'T BEEN RESOLVED YET.
WELL, ARGENT HAS ...
...HAD SOME TROUBLES WITH THE GUILD.
Zantak's shoppe...
SHHH!
THE SILVER APOTHECARY'S MEDICINE IS SO GROSS TASTING!
YEAH, AFTER ADDING ALL THAT SYRUP...
HOW DOES IT TASTE, KIDDO?
YOUR MEDICINE TASTES LIKE JUICE! IT'S YUMMY!
...LEFT FOR NAVARA.
I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN THE PRINCESS AND HER APOTHECARY ...
IT MAKES ME WANNA THROW UP EVERY TIME I TAKE IT.
...
SHE'S WRITING LETTERS TO ATTACH TO WEDDING GIFTS THAT MUST BE RETURNED.
MY ETIQUETTE INSTRUCTOR DISAPPEARED ON ME.
MY FATHER'S GONE ON BUSINESS, AND I HAVE TONS OF WORK HERE.
I HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING FIRST...
GARNA, PLEASE GO HELP ARGENT.
YOU WERE AN ASSASSIN HIRED BY ANOTHER COUNTRY TO POISON ME.
I'LL KEEP WRITING.
NEXT...
BEFORE THAT ...
YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN NAVARA WERE RECOGNIZED AND YOU WERE REINSTATED AS THE ROYAL CHEF.
LOOKS GOOD!
HOW IS MY GRAMMAR?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHO I AM?
WHY DO I HAVE TO GO?
I HAD NO CHOICE IN NAVARA, BUT YOU HAVE OTHER APOTHECARIES IN THIS COUNTRY THAT CAN HELP HIM!
EXACTLY! I'M A CHEF, NOT A HEALER!

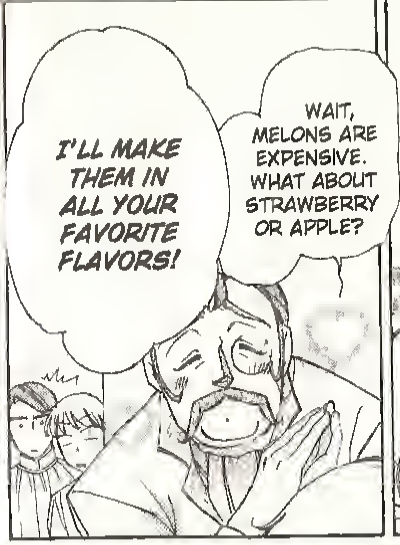

ERM...
I REMEMBER A STALL BACK WHEN I WORKED FOR MY OLD MASTER.

I DON'T HAVE ANY.
WHAT? I SEE SOME RIGHT THERE.
GLARE
OH, IT'S YOU, SODA.

HEY, IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
DO YOU HAVE CALENDULA ROOTS FOR SALE?

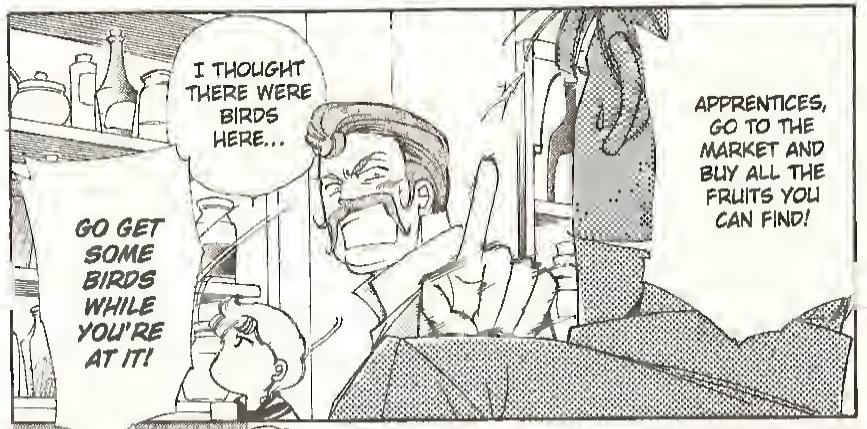

I HEAR YOU'RE NOW WORKING FOR THE SILVER APOTHECARY.
WHY NOT?!
WHAT? YOU CAN'T SELL IT?

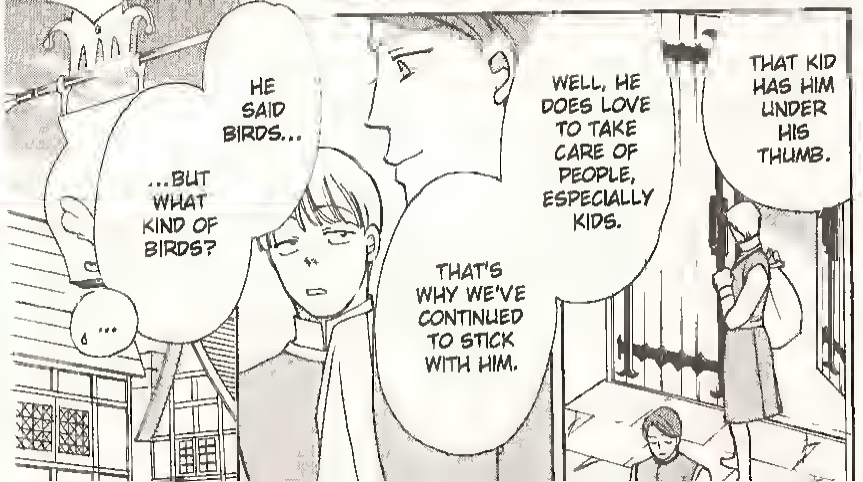
THAT'S ALREADY BEEN SOLD. SORRY.


I'LL MAKE THEM IN ALL YOUR FAVORITE FLAVORS!
WAIT, MELONS ARE EXPENSIVE. WHAT ABOUT STRAWBERRY OR APPLE?

I LIKE MELONS.

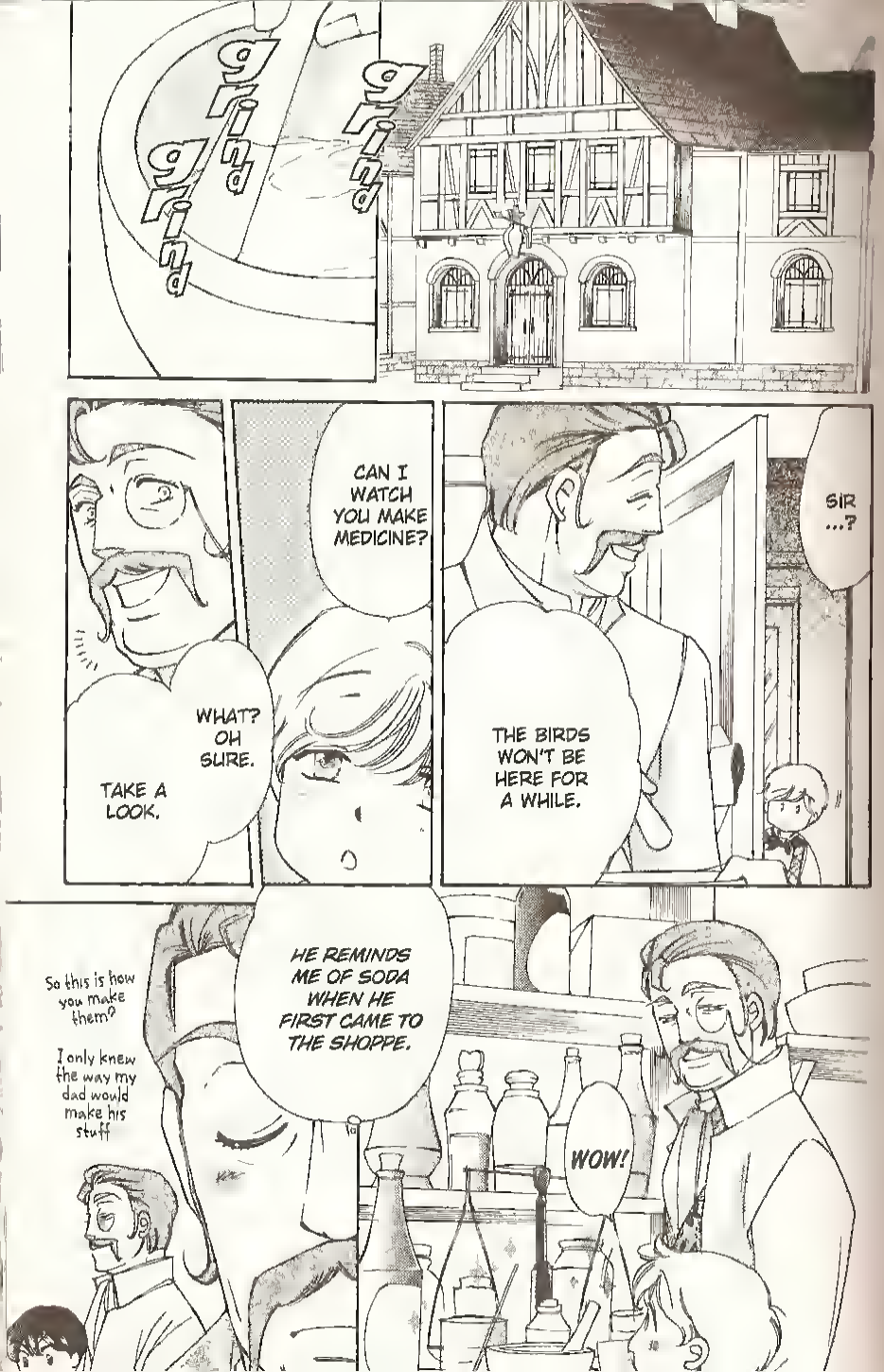
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU ENJOY THE TASTE.
THAT'S GREAT! YOU CAN TAKE MY MEDICINE NOW.


I THOUGHT THERE WERE BIRDS HERE...
GO GET SOME BIRDS WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!
APPRENTICES, GO TO THE MARKET AND BUY ALL THE FRUITS YOU CAN FIND!


HE SAID BIRDS...
...BUT WHAT KIND OF BIRDS?
...
WELL, HE DOES LOVE TO TAKE CARE OF PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY KIDS.
THAT'S WHY WE'VE CONTINUED TO STICK WITH HIM.
THAT KID HAS HIM UNDER HIS THUMB.

I'M GONNA GO TO ANOTHER MARKET.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, SODA?
HEY...
WHAT DO YOU NEED TO POKE AROUND HERE FOR?
BESIDES, YOU CAN GO CRY TO THE PRINCESS AND SHE'LL HELP YOU, RIGHT? AFTER ALL, ARGENT IS HER FAVORITE.
YOUR FUTURE'S IN DANGER, YOU KNOW THAT?!
JUST CHILL OUT AND THINK!
THE GUILD DOES HELP MEMBERS SECURE SUPPLIES AND STAFF...
...BUT THEY'RE RUTHLESS TO NON-MEMBERS.
IT WAS A MISTAKE TO MAKE ENEMIES WITH THE GUILD.
I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS.
I SEE.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, SODA, THE FORMER APPRENTICE.
YOU'RE FROM ...
IT'S A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF THE GUILD.
IT'S GONNA BE THE SAME AT EVERY STALL YOU GO TO AT THIS MARKET.
BUT--!
I WOULDN'T WANT TO DEAL WITH COMPLAINTS LATER.
I DON'T KNOW IF HE'LL BE PLEASED WITH OUR PRODUCTS.
THE HEAD OF THE GUILD?
DOES THAT MEAN ZANTAK IS PURPOSE-FULLY MAKING THINGS DIFFICULT FOR ARGENT?
THANKS FOR THE BUSINESS!
... WHAT-EVER FRUIT YOU HAVE ON HAND.
HEY, THE USUAL HERBS AND...
YOU LEFT THE SHOPPE AND HURT HIS REPUTATION.
ACTUALLY, THERE'S MORE. YOU'RE PART OF THE PROBLEM.
IS HE STILL MAD THAT HE'S NO LONGER THE ROYAL APOTHECARY?


grind
grind
grind
CAN I WATCH YOU MAKE MEDICINE?
WHAT? OH SURE. TAKE A LOOK.
SIR ...?
THE BIRDS WON'T BE HERE FOR A WHILE.
So this is how you make them?
I only knew the way my dad would make his stuff
HE REMINDS ME OF SODA WHEN HE FIRST CAME TO THE SHOPPE.
WOW!

I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF PLAYING FAVORITES AS ROYALTY.
I WASN'T AWARE BACK THEN.
ALSO, IF PEOPLE THINK YOU'RE PLAYING FAVORITES, THAT WILL CAUSE SOME IRE.
BESIDES, YOU TOLD ME IN NAVARA THAT...
IT'LL LOOK BAD IF I TAKE ACTION, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU...
I THOUGHT YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON ABOUT BEHAVING UNFAIRLY.
HOW ABOUT 3 DAYS?
GARNA ...
YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE ME A WEEK'S WORTH OF YOUR ALLOWANCE.
FINE, I'LL GO.
...IF I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE HIM, I NEEDED TO GIVE HIM SPACE.

SLAM
HE MAY BE A BASILISK, BUT HE'S ALSO HUMAN.
I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION, BUT IT WILL INVITE MISTAKES.
HIS BODY WON'T HOLD UP, EITHER.
"HEY... WHY WON'T YOU JOIN THE GUILD?"
CLICK
"I CAN'T EVEN IF I WANTED TO. I HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY FORMAL TRAINING, AND I HAVEN'T PASSED THE TEST."
"YOU MUST HAVE HEARD THE LEGEND OF THE BASILISK. THEY'RE RAISED TO BE ASSASSINS, FED POISON AND TRAINED IN THE DEADLY ARTS. OUR ENTIRE BODY IS POISONOUS AS A RESULT, AND OUR BODIES FUNCTION AS WEAPONS!"
"ARGENT IS A FORMER SLAVE WHO WAS PURCHASED AS MY FOOD TASTER."
"THAT'S THE REASON I CAN HANDLE TOXINS THAT MOST CAN'T."

He even took Soda away from me!!
THAT JERK!
?
MASTER!
I'M SORRY I'M LATE!
SLAMM
NOT THAT IT'S MY PLACE, BUT TRY TO MAKE AMENDS WITH THE GUILD.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING TODAY. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
HE COL-LAPSED AFTER-WARDS.
THE LAST PATIENT JUST WENT HOME.
HE'S DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE...
IT'S NOT LIKE MASTER DOESN'T WANT TO BE PART OF THE GUILD.
THUD
I KNOW, BUT...
THE PRINCESS MAY HAVE HIS BACK, BUT IT'S BEST NOT TO HAVE MANY ENEMIES.

SODA?!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BOSS ZANTAK.
WHO'S HERE SO EARLY IN THE MORNING? I'M...
I'M VISITING TODAY TO ASK FOR A FAVOR.
CAN YOU STOP DEFAMING MY MASTER, ARGENT?
IF YOU ARE UPSET THAT I LEFT YOUR GUIDANCE, I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
BESIDES, WE'RE DOING GOOD BUSINESS.
THEN WHY ARE YOU MAKING THINGS DIFFICULT FOR HIM?
...NOT UPSET THAT YOU LEFT. IT DOESN'T HURT ME IN ANY WAY.
I'M...

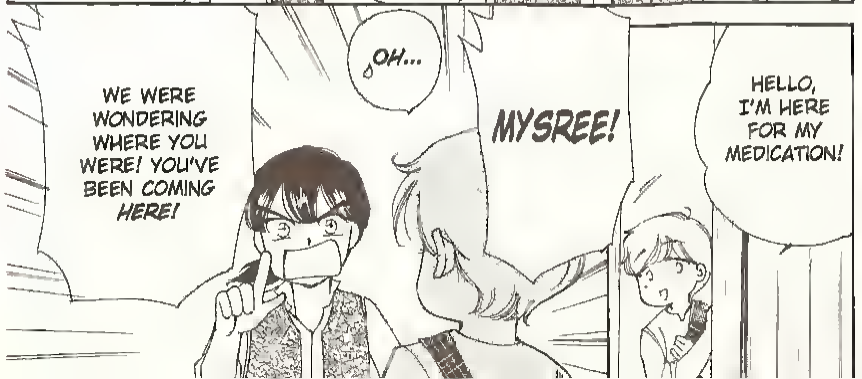
CRACK
...I'LL GROW UP TO BE A GREAT APOTHECARY AND RETURN YOUR BODY TO NORMAL!
MASTER ...
SODA?
LINK
I HAVE TO MAKE MEDICINE.
OH, SORRY TO WAKE YOU.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING. GO TO BED.
STAGGER
MYSREE MAY BE COMING TO THE SHOP...
...ANY DAY!
CRASHCRASHBOOM
knock knock
knock knock
GARNA'S RIGHT. ARGENT'S NOT GOING TO LAST AT THIS RATE!

SODA!
YOU MAY GET WORSE!
THIS ISN'T REAL MEDICINE!
THIS MEDICINE TASTES BETTER.
BUT ...
MY MASTER'S BEEN MAKING YOUR MEDICINE INSTEAD OF GETTING REST.

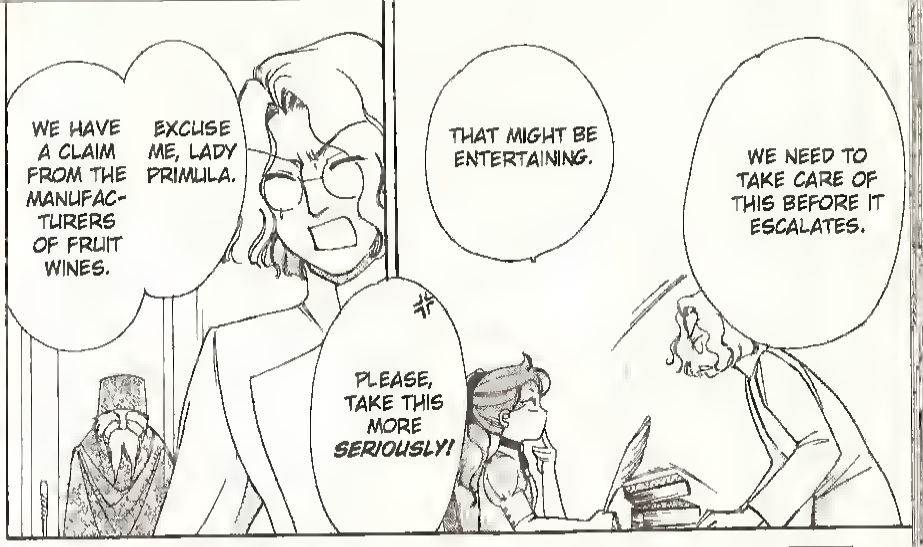
IT'S NOT LIKE MR. ZANTAK DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING.
AN INCIDENT AT THE APOTH-ECARY CAFE?
BUT HIS PRIDE WON'T ALLOW HIM TO INNOVATE
CRAP ...
OTHERWISE, I HAVE PLENTY OF IDEAS...
I'D PREFER THAT YOU STOP BAD-MOUTHING MY BUSINESS.

賢者の涙
乙女の
THIS IS THE BIRD? WHAT DOES IT SOUND LIKE?
UHM...
ONE MORE TEARS OF WISDOM, PLEASE.

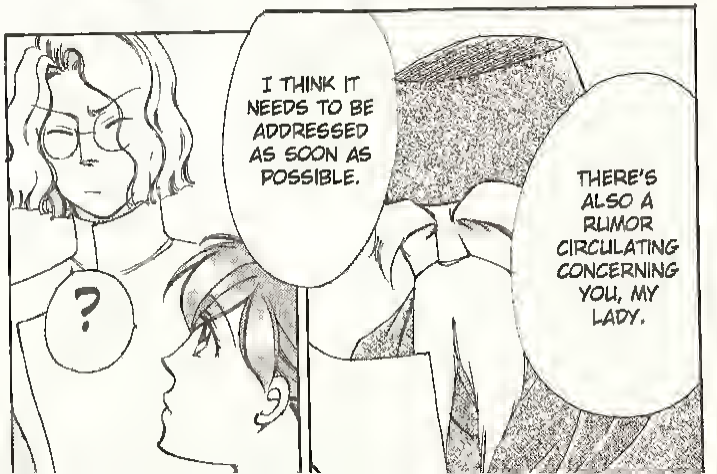
MEDICINE SHOULD BE LIKE COCKTAILS. WE MAKE IT FUN SO THEY'RE NOT BORED WHILE WAITING.
THE TASTE IS ONE OF THE KEY SELLING POINTS.
WHAT IS THIS? AN APOTHECARY CAFE?
SMELLS REALLY STRONG

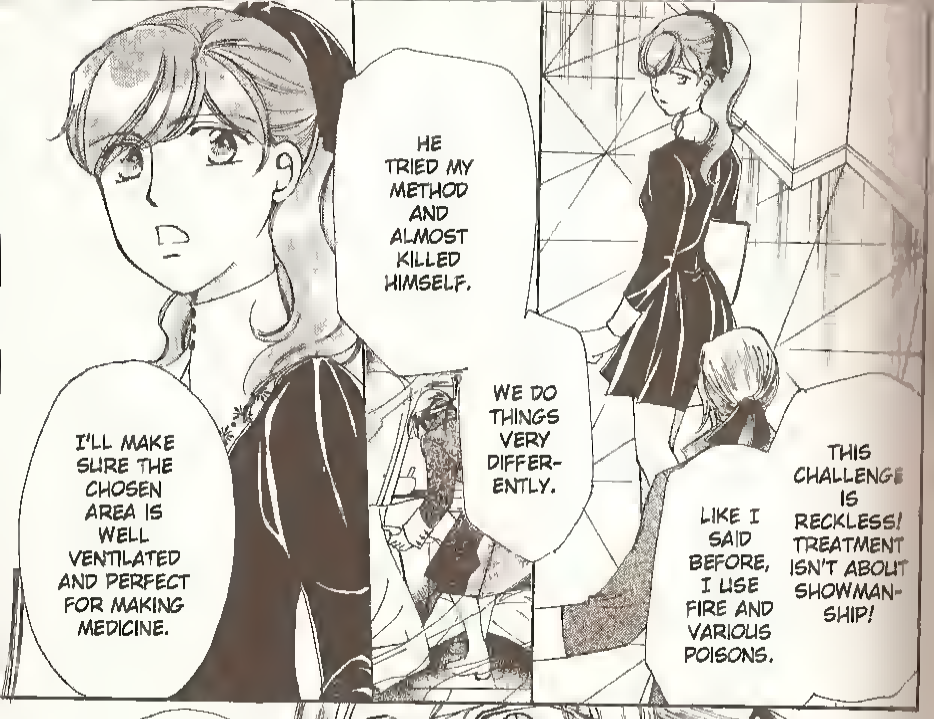

WE WERE WONDERING WHERE YOU WERE! YOU'VE BEEN COMING HERE!
OH...
MYSREE!
HELLO, I'M HERE FOR MY MEDICATION!

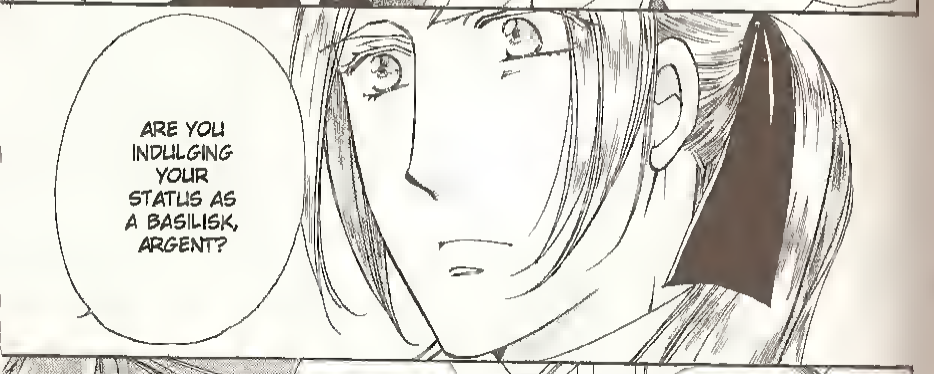
APOTHECARIES ARGENT AND ZANTAK, PLEASE STEP FORWARD.
The castle at Beazol
APOTHECARY ZANTAK, I HEAR THAT YOU ARE DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR DISMISSAL FROM THE POSITION AS THE ROYAL APOTHECARY.
AS A RESULT, YOU'RE INVOLVING OTHER APOTHECARIES AS WELL AS THE MARKET IN THIS.
FURTHER DISAGREEMENTS ARE GOING TO BE A NUISANCE TO YOUR INDUSTRY, OTHER BUSINESSES, AND THE PEOPLE.
THEREFORE...
HE WAS GIVEN THE POSITION DUE TO HIS SKILL, NOTHING MORE.
I'M SURE MANY PEOPLE FEEL THAT THERE IS FAVORITISM INVOLVED WITH THE PLACEMENT OF ARGENT.

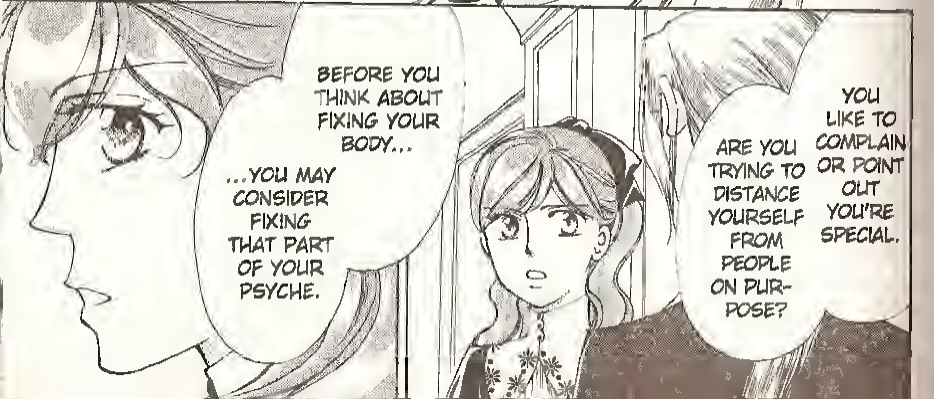

EXCUSE ME, LADY PRIMULA.
WE HAVE A CLAIM FROM THE MANUFACTURERS OF FRUIT WINES.
PLEASE, TAKE THIS MORE SERIOUSLY!
THAT MIGHT BE ENTERTAINING.
WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THIS BEFORE IT ESCALATES.

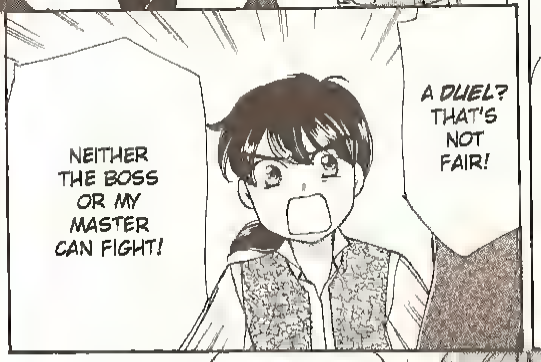
APPARENTLY, MR. ZANTAK'S NEW BUSINESS VENTURE HAS CAUSED HIM TO BUY UP ALL THE FRUITS, HERBS AND ALCOHOL ON THE MARKET. IT'S AFFECTING THE FRUIT WINE MANUFACTURERS.
YOU SEE?
A CLAIM?

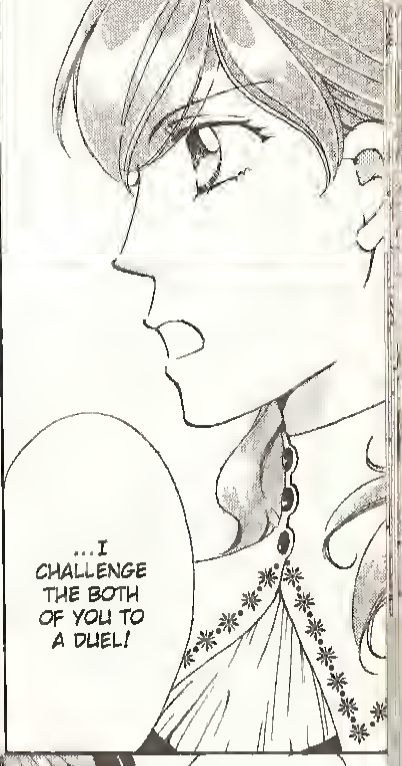

?
I THINK IT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THERE'S ALSO A RUMOR CIRCULATING CONCERNING YOU, MY LADY.

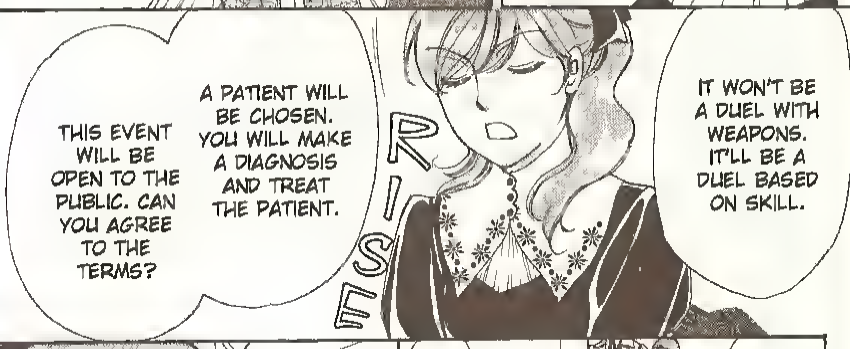

I'LL MAKE SURE THE CHOSEN AREA IS WELL VENTILATED AND PERFECT FOR MAKING MEDICINE.
HE TRIED MY METHOD AND ALMOST KILLED HIMSELF.
WE DO THINGS VERY DIFFER-ENTLY.
LIKE I SAID BEFORE, I USE FIRE AND VARIOUS POISONS.
THIS CHALLENGE IS RECKLESS! TREATMENT ISN'T ABOUT SHOWMAN-SHIP!

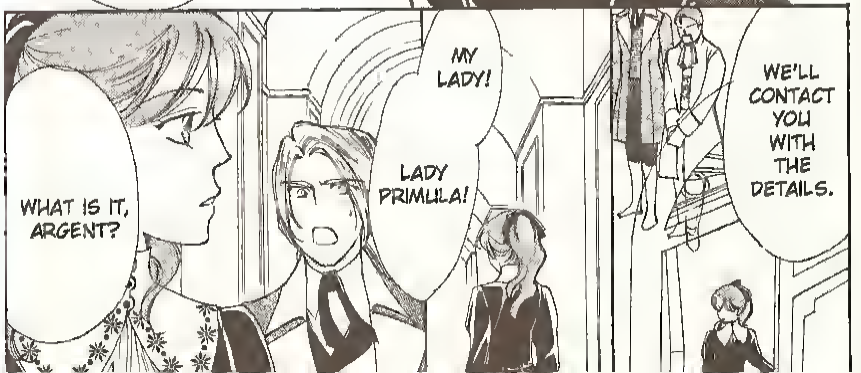

ARE YOU INDULGING YOUR STATUS AS A BASILISK, ARGENT?


BEFORE YOU THINK ABOUT FIXING YOUR BODY...
...YOU MAY CONSIDER FIXING THAT PART OF YOUR PSYCHE.
ARE YOU TRYING TO DISTANCE YOURSELF FROM PEOPLE ON PUR-POSE?
YOU LIKE TO COMPLAIN OR POINT OUT YOU'RE SPECIAL.


NEITHER THE BOSS OR MY MASTER CAN FIGHT!
A DUEL? THAT'S NOT FAIR!

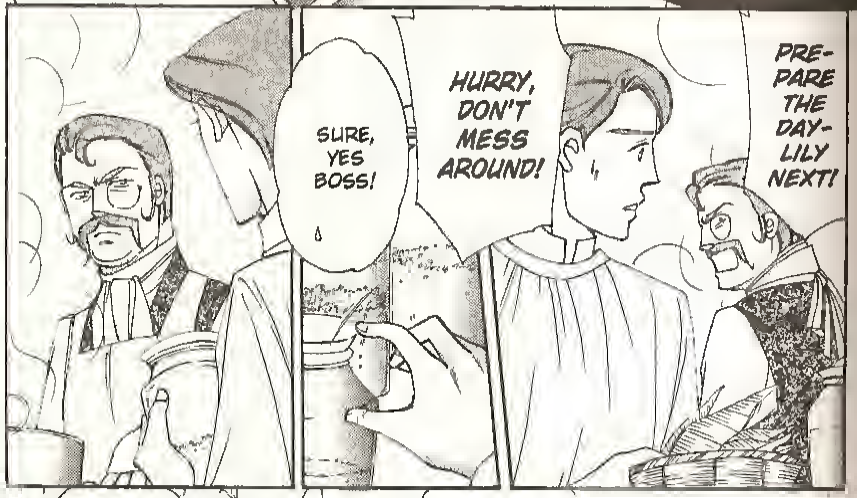

...I CHALLENGE THE BOTH OF YOU TO A DUEL!

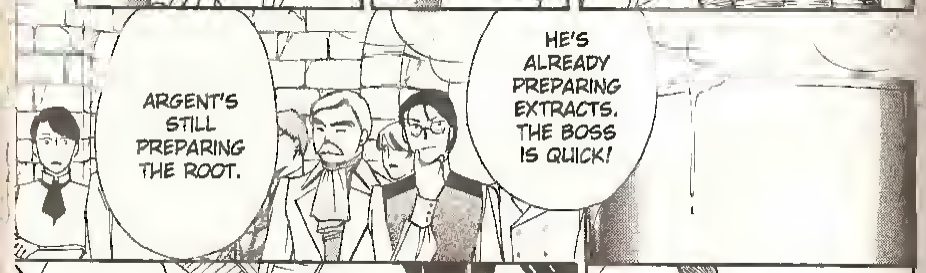

THIS EVENT WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. CAN YOU AGREE TO THE TERMS?
A PATIENT WILL BE CHOSEN. YOU WILL MAKE A DIAGNOSIS AND TREAT THE PATIENT.
IT WON'T BE A DUEL WITH WEAPONS. IT'LL BE A DUEL BASED ON SKILL.
RISE


WHAT IS IT, ARGENT?
MY LADY!
LADY PRIMULA!
WE'LL CONTACT YOU WITH THE DETAILS.

A few days later...
I THINK I'LL BET ON THE SILVER APOTH-ECARY.
THE BOSS HAS A LOT OF EXPERIENCE, THOUGH.
WHO ARE YOU BETTING ON?
A COMPETITION BETWEEN THE NEW AND OLD ROYAL APOTHECARY, EH?
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
THIS IS LIKE A CARNIVAL.
I'M ROOTING FOR YOU, SIR!
...WE WILL COMMENCE THE COMPETITION ALONG WITH YOUR APPRENTICES.
APOTH-ECARIES ARGENT AND ZANTAK ...
SILENCE, EVERY-ONE!
THUD

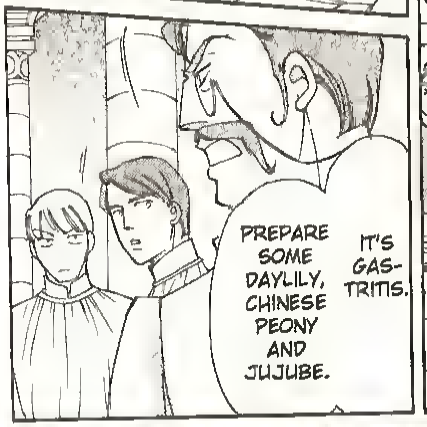
I UNDER-STAND ...
I'LL SEE YOU IN A FEW DAYS.
PROVE THAT THE POISONS YOU USE CAN MAKE FOR VERY GOOD MEDICINE.
BEFORE YOU ASSERT YOURSELF AS A BASILISK, PROVE THAT YOU ARE A SKILLED APOTH-ECARY.
DON'T DRAG HIS FUTURE INTO YOUR PROBLEMS.
YOU MAY BE ALL RIGHT, BUT SODA NEEDS PERMISSION FROM THE GUILD IF HE WANTS TO BE AN APOTHECARY.
CLACK
CLACK
DON'T WORRY. HE'S A HARDCORE MASOCHIST.
I THINK I WAS TOO HARSH.
PRINCESS, YOU DID IT.


SURE, YES BOSS!
HURRY, DON'T MESS AROUND!
PRE-PARE THE DAY-LILY NEXT!

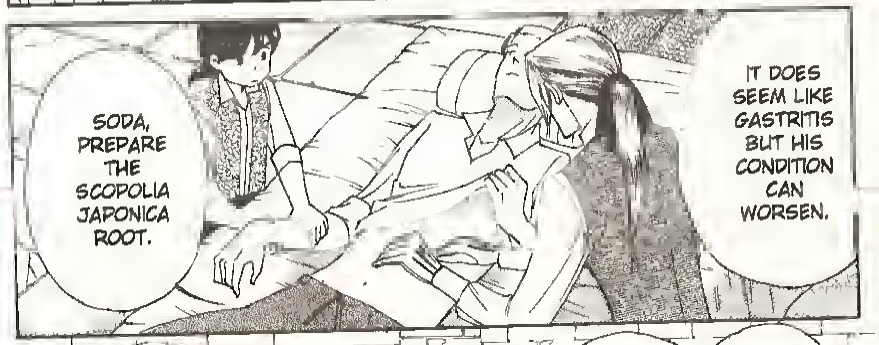

ARGENT'S STILL PREPARING THE ROOT.
HE'S ALREADY PREPARING EXTRACTS. THE BOSS IS QUICK!

THE SPEED IS OF THE ESSENCE, BUT THEY'RE BEING VERY LEISURELY.
CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH
UH... YES.
DON'T RUSH.
WORK AT THE USUAL PACE.
Oh

HMMM...

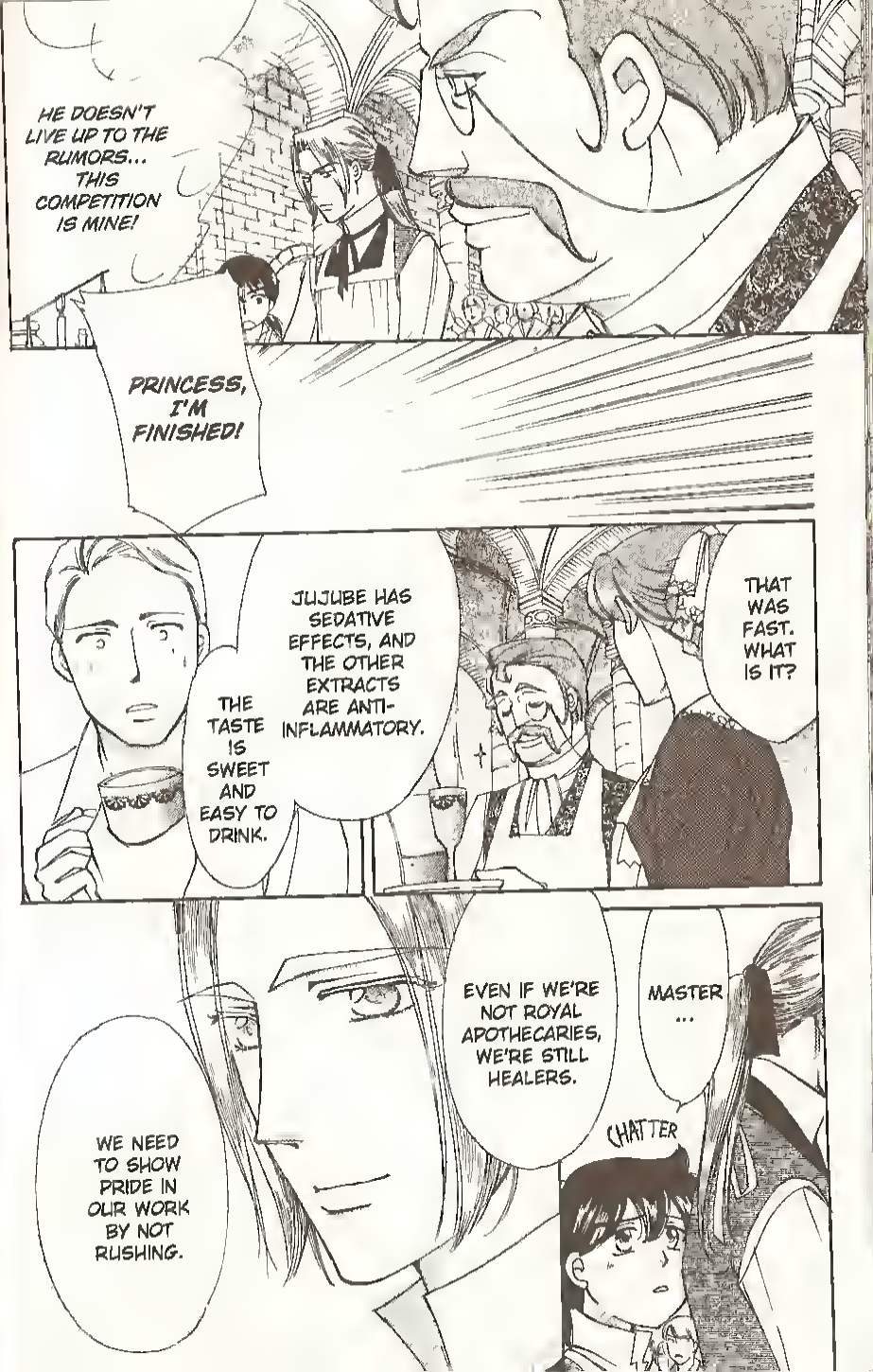

PREPARE SOME DAYLILY, CHINESE PEONY AND JUJUBE.
IT'S GAS-TRITIS.

WHOEVER RESOLVES HIS ISSUE FIRST WILL WIN THE COMPETITION.
PLEASE CONSIDER HIS SYMP-TOMS AND CREATE APPROPRI-ATE MEDICA-TION.
WE HAVE HERE A PATIENT WHO DEVELOPED STOMACH PAINS THIS MORNING.


SODA, PREPARE THE SCOPOLIA JAPONICA ROOT.
IT DOES SEEM LIKE GASTRITIS BUT HIS CONDITION CAN WORSEN.

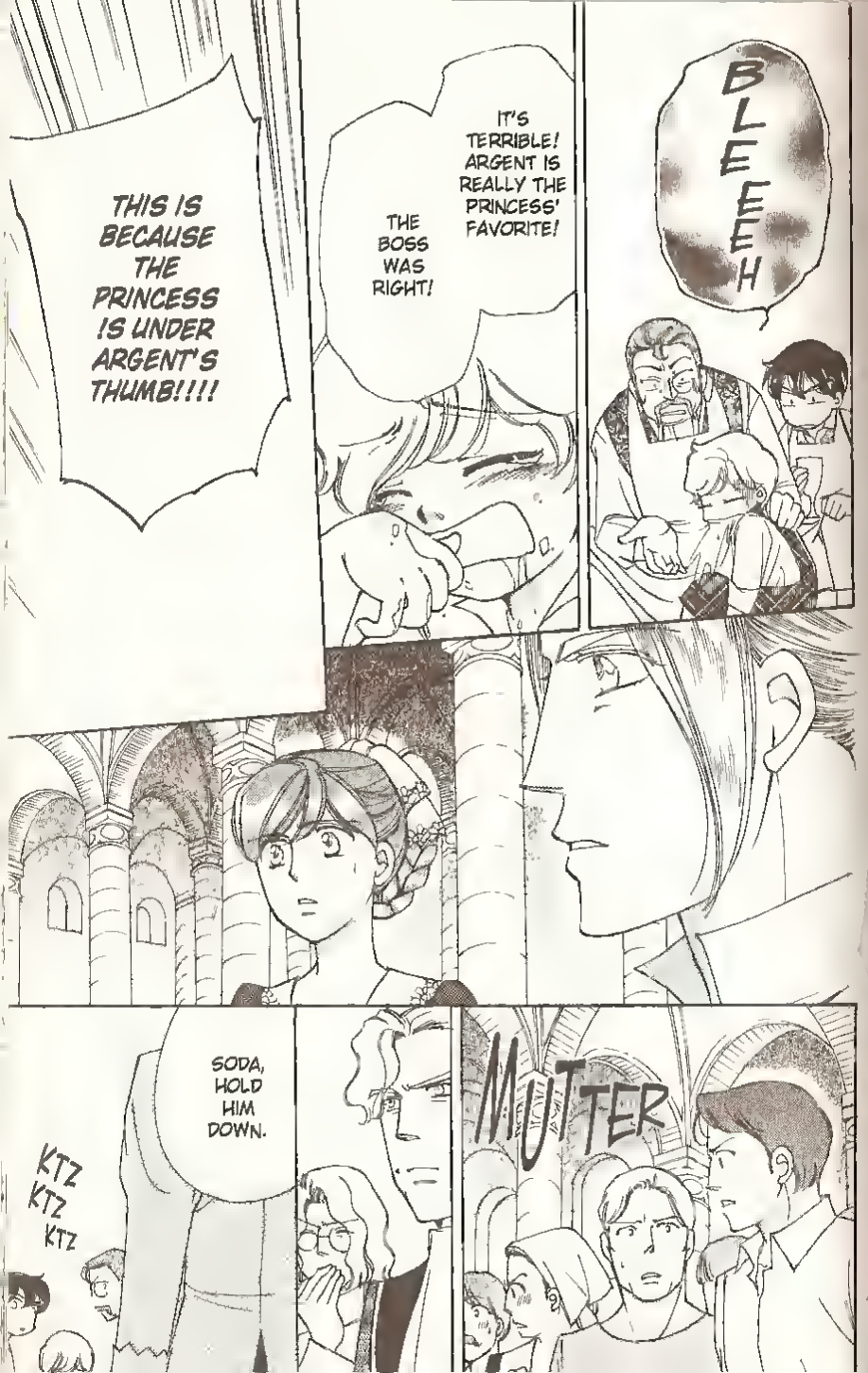
SO HE DOES USE POISONS AS MEDICINE...
I DO HEAR IT CAN HAVE ANESTHETIC QUALITIES FOR GASTRIC DISTRESS, BUT IT'S ALSO TOXIC IN SMALL AMOUNTS.
SCOPOLIA ROOT?

That's the boss for you!
IT'S BEEN AN HOUR.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
I DON'T FEEL DIFFERENT, BUT I DO FEEL WARMER.
RIGHT!!
YES, IT INCREASES THE BLOOD FLOW, BUT THE PREPARED ROOTS LOOK VERY SIMILAR TO DAYLILY.
DONG QUAI?
THIS DOESN'T TASTE LIKE DAYLILY. THIS TASTES MORE LIKE DONG QUAI USED FOR FEMALE PROBLEMS.
WITH MEDICINES, IT'S NOT REALLY EXCUSABLE, IS IT?
RIGHT! WE WERE RUSHING AND...
WHEN PEOPLE RUSH, THEY TEND TO GET CONFUSED EASILY.
EVEN WITH COOKING, WE CAN MAKE MISTAKES WITH SPICES.
NEXT, TAKE ARGENT'S MEDICATION.
MASTER, THE EXTRACT'S BEEN DRIED!

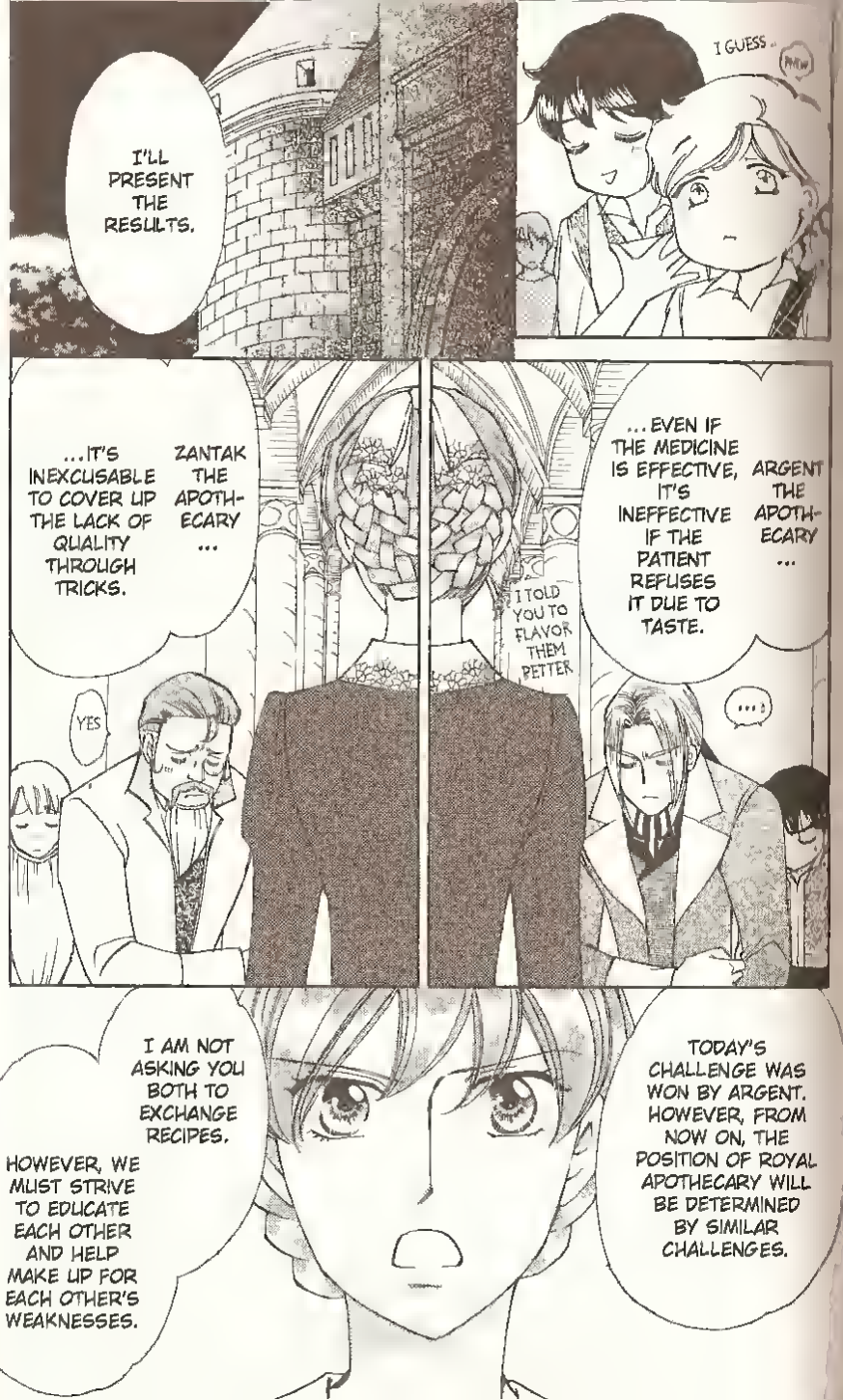

HE DOESN'T LIVE UP TO THE RUMORS... THIS COMPETITION IS MINE!
PRINCESS, I'M FINISHED!
THAT WAS FAST. WHAT IS IT?
JUJUBE HAS SEDATIVE EFFECTS, AND THE OTHER EXTRACTS ARE ANTI-INFLAMMATORY.
THE TASTE IS SWEET AND EASY TO DRINK.
MASTER ...
EVEN IF WE'RE NOT ROYAL APOTHECARIES, WE'RE STILL HEALERS.
CHATTER
WE NEED TO SHOW PRIDE IN OUR WORK BY NOT RUSHING.

I'M SORRY FOR THE DELAY. HERE YOU GO.
HE'S MAKING SURE TO BE CAREFUL AND ACCURATE.
HE HANDLES POISON CAREFULLY BECAUSE HE RESPECTS ITS POWER.
I'M SORRY, MYSREE.
BUT... SIR!
I'LL CLOSE MY SHOP AND FURTHER MY EDUCATION.
THIS IS CLEARLY MY LOSS.
YOU CAN TAKE ARGENT'S MEDICINE AND WE'LL DECIDE THE RESULTS WHEN WE GET THEM.
WHAT WILL I DO WITHOUT YOUR MEDICINE?
THERE'S NO REASON TO WAIT FOR THE RESULTS.

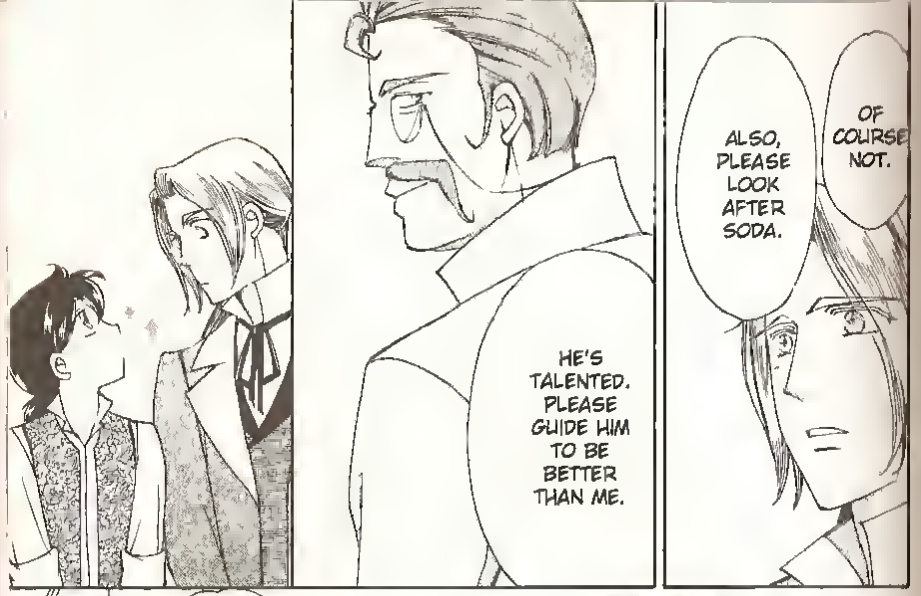
EVEN AN ACCURATE SCALE IS AFFECTED BY HUMIDITY AND TEMPERATURE. IT'LL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW HE'LL DILUTE IT.
IT CAN CAUSE TOXICITY EVEN IN SMALL DOSES.
THE PROBLEM IS GOING TO BE THE DOSAGE.
I NEED STARCH.
THIS ALREADY HAS COLOR, SO THERE'S NO NEED TO COLOR IT ANY FURTHER.
HERE'S THE RED DYE.
HE ONLY NEEDS A SMALL AMOUNT SO HE'S GOING TO USE AN INERT FILLER TO DILUTE IT.
WHAT FOR?
COLOR AND STARCH?
THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT HIS WORK.
THAT'S A LOT OF WORK.
THE DYE IS TO EASILY SEE IF EVERYTHING IS MIXED WELL.
IT'S EASIER TO DILUTE LARGER AMOUNTS LIKE THAT SAFELY.
IF YOU DILUTE A SUBSTANCE 100 FOLD, YOU CAN WEIGH IT AT A 100 FOLD.

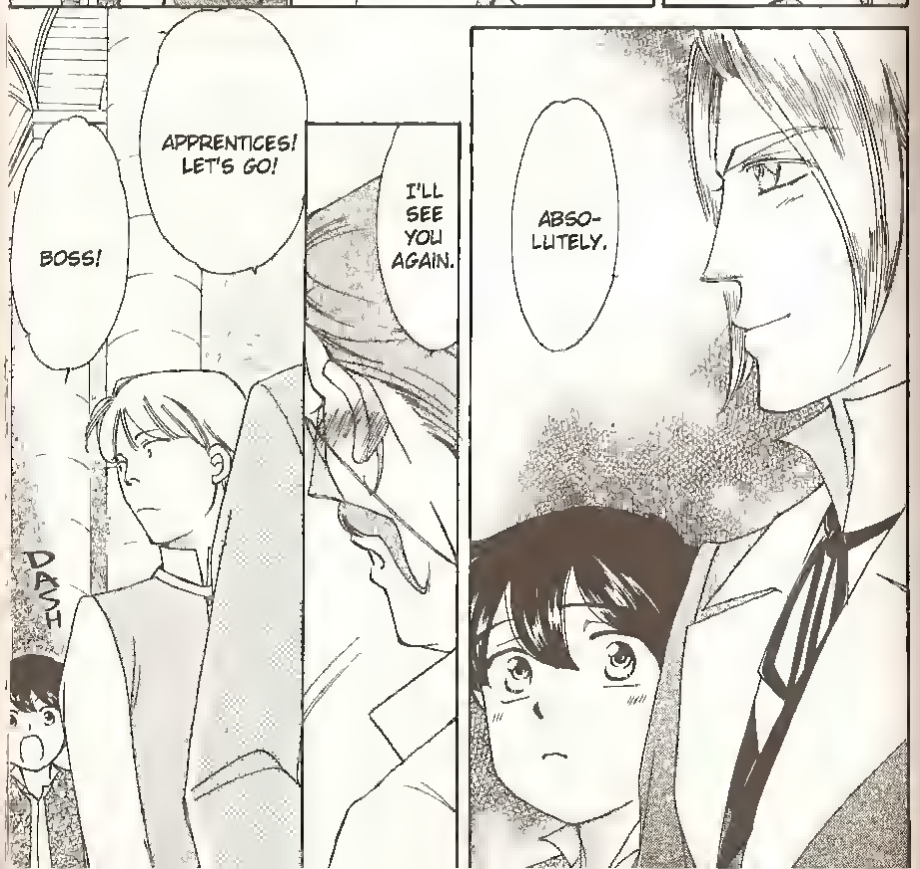

THIS IS BECAUSE THE PRINCESS IS UNDER ARGENT'S THUMB!!!!
THE BOSS WAS RIGHT!
IT'S TERRIBLE! ARGENT IS REALLY THE PRINCESS' FAVORITE!
BLEEEH
SODA, HOLD HIM DOWN.
KTZ KTZ KTZ
MUTTER

UNNH
MYSREE!
UNNH
OH, NO, I WANT YOUR MEDICINE!
MY MEDICINE WON'T WORK. GIVE HIM ARGENT'S MEDICINE!
HE'S HAVING STOMACH SPASMS. SODA'S RIGHT.
BOSS ...?
I SWEAR, ARGENT KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING. YOU SAW HOW CAREFUL HE WAS, RIGHT? IT'S WONDERFUL.
I WAS JUST BARELY TRYING TO KEEP YOUR SYMPTOMS AT BAY.
UNFORTUNATELY, MY MEDICINE WON'T WORK.
UH...
HERE YOU GO.
BOSS, HE'S A CHILD SO HE'LL NEED LESS.

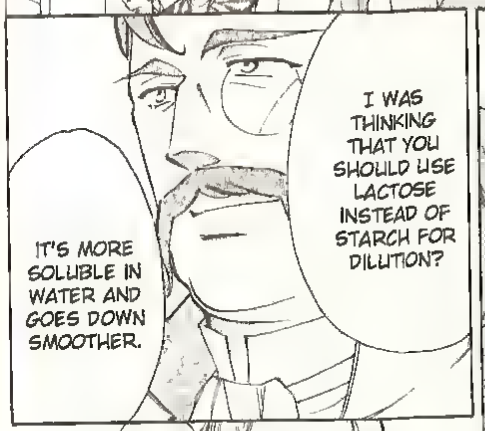

I'LL PRESENT THE RESULTS.
I GUESS...
PHEW
ZANTAK THE APOTH-ECARY ...
...IT'S INEXCUSABLE TO COVER UP THE LACK OF QUALITY THROUGH TRICKS.
YES
I TOLD YOU TO FLAVOR THEM BETTER
ARGENT THE APOTH-ECARY ...
...EVEN IF THE MEDICINE IS EFFECTIVE, IT'S INEFFECTIVE IF THE PATIENT REFUSES IT DUE TO TASTE.
...
I AM NOT ASKING YOU BOTH TO EXCHANGE RECIPES.
HOWEVER, WE MUST STRIVE TO EDUCATE EACH OTHER AND HELP MAKE UP FOR EACH OTHER'S WEAKNESSES.
TODAY'S CHALLENGE WAS WON BY ARGENT. HOWEVER, FROM NOW ON, THE POSITION OF ROYAL APOTHECARY WILL BE DETERMINED BY SIMILAR CHALLENGES.

gah
SHOVE
GIVE ME ZANTAK'S SYRUP.
+DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME.
SHE'S FORCING HIS MOUTH SHUT!!
MFFFT
MFFFT MFFFFT
IN FRONT OF ALL THESE PEOPLE!
SEE? IT'S KIND OF LIKE CANDY THIS WAY!
GULP

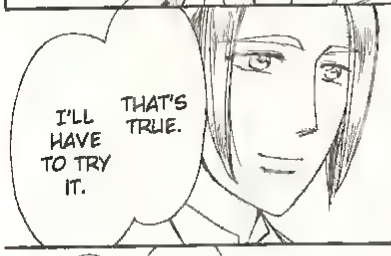

HE'S TALENTED. PLEASE GUIDE HIM TO BE BETTER THAN ME.
ALSO, PLEASE LOOK AFTER SODA.
OF COURSE NOT.


APPRENTICES! LET'S GO!
BOSS!
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN.
ABSO-LUTELY.
DASH

THAT IS ALL!


I WAS THINKING THAT YOU SHOULD USE LACTOSE INSTEAD OF STARCH FOR DILUTION?
IT'S MORE SOLUBLE IN WATER AND GOES DOWN SMOOTHER.

I'M GLAD TO HAVE SEEN YOU WORK.
YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR REPUTATION AS A GENIUS.
NO, LIKEWISE. I'VE ALSO LEARNED FROM YOU.


THAT'S TRUE.
I'LL HAVE TO TRY IT.

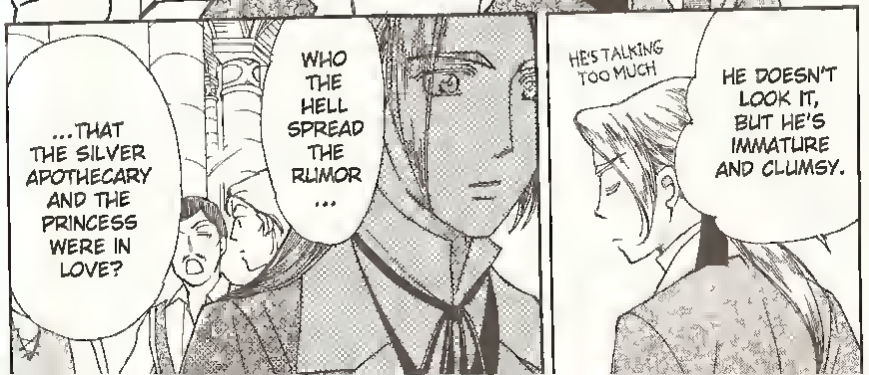
WHAT?
WILL IT BE INCONVE-NIENT FOR YOU?
I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO ATTEND.
AT THE NEXT GUILD MEETING, WE'LL TALK ABOUT DILUTION OF MEDICINES USING SUGARS.

SHHH! LADY PRIMULA'S COMING!
ARGENT, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
I DIDN'T SEE ANY EVIDENCE OF THAT!

...SOMETIMES, IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THINGS TO BE DISGUISED.
I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT MEDICINE.
ARGENT, YOU MAY NOT LIKE SWEETS, BUT...

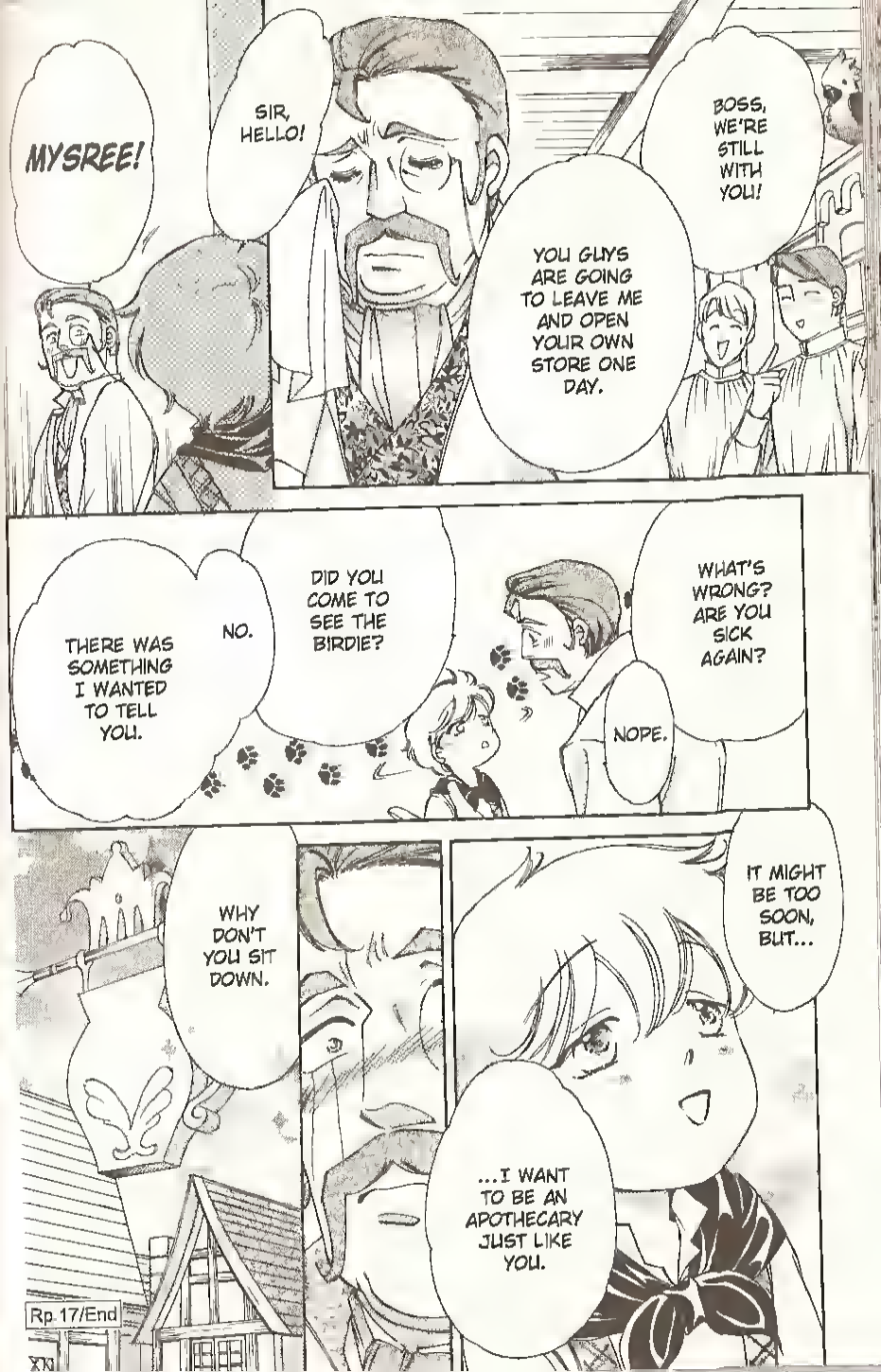
I HAVE BEEN USING MY POSITION AND EXPERIENCE WITHOUT THINKING OF OTHERS.
I AGREE.

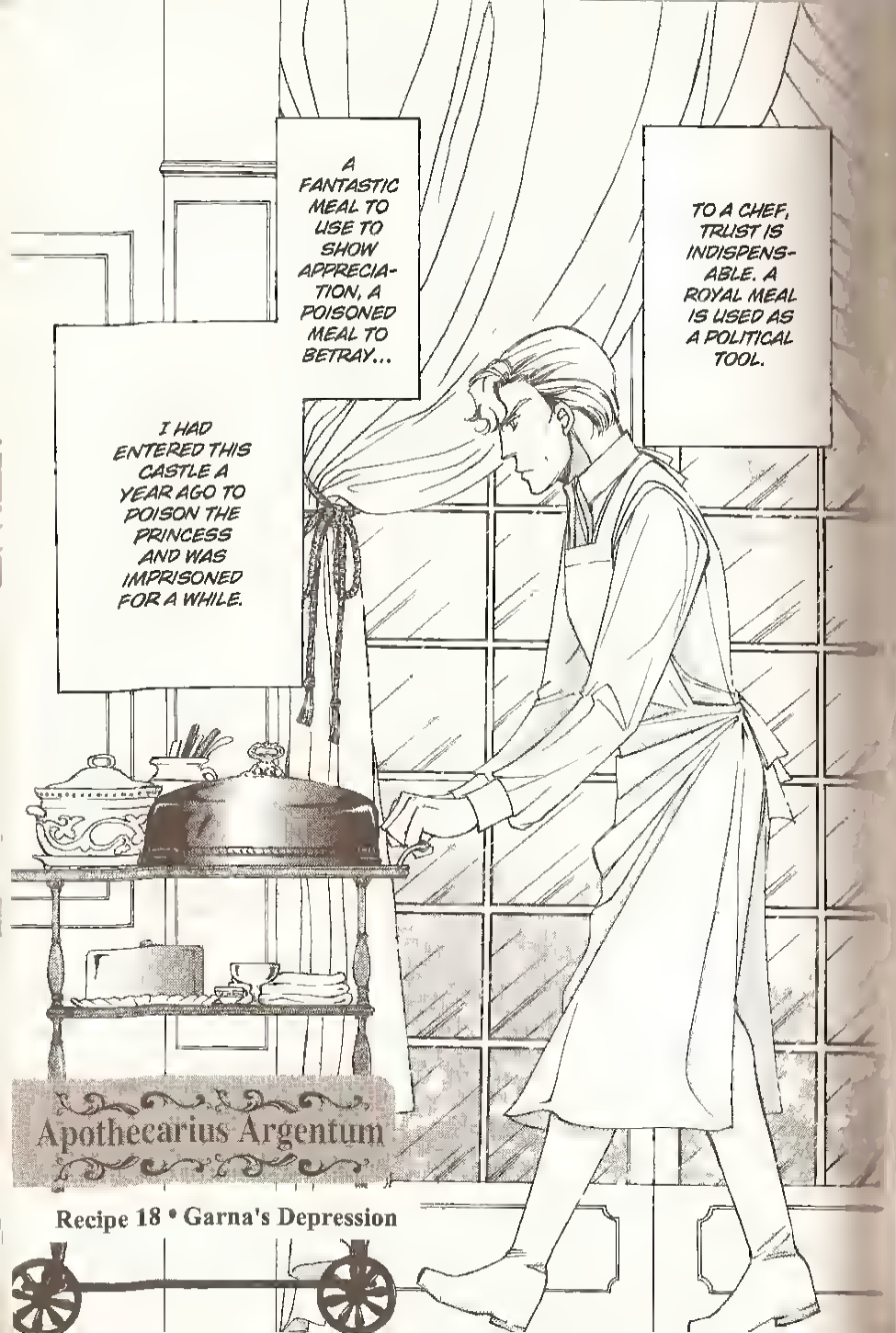
THANK YOU BOSS.
I...
KINDA ...
HE'S A KIND MAN. I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU LEFT.
THE MAIN REASON IS THAT...
...MY MASTER'S A DOOFUS WITHOUT ME.
Smash


...THAT THE SILVER APOTHECARY AND THE PRINCESS WERE IN LOVE?
WHO THE HELL SPREAD THE RUMOR ...
HE'S TALKING TOO MUCH
HE DOESN'T LOOK IT, BUT HE'S IMMATURE AND CLUMSY.

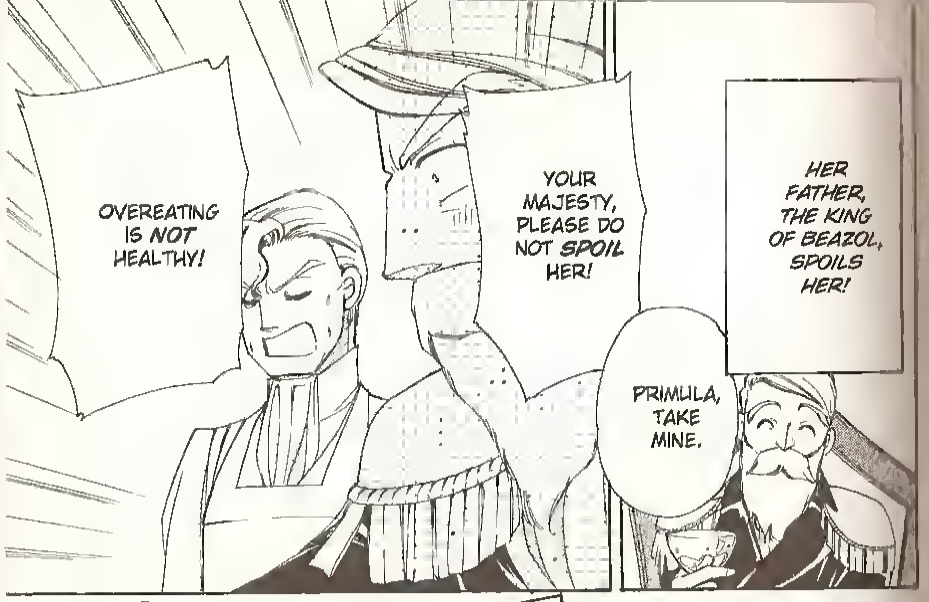
Squak Squak
Squak Squak
THE SUGAR COATING WE CREATED AT THE GUILD WAS A HIT!
I'M GLAD MY PATIENTS GOT BETTER, BUT MY PATIENTS ARE GONE.
I'M GLAD MYSREE RECOVERED AND CAN TAKE MEDICINE NOW.
IT'S A TOUGH BUSINESS ...
...TO HAVE GAINED SOME LEADERSHIP SKILLS AS OF LATE.
THE PRINCESS SEEMS ...
THE TRUTH WILL BE A BITTER PILL FOR OTHERS TO SWALLOW.
MY FEELINGS AND...
...YOUR REAL IDENTITY MUST REMAIN SECRET.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADVICE.
YES, DISGUISE CAN BE IMPORTANT AT TIMES.

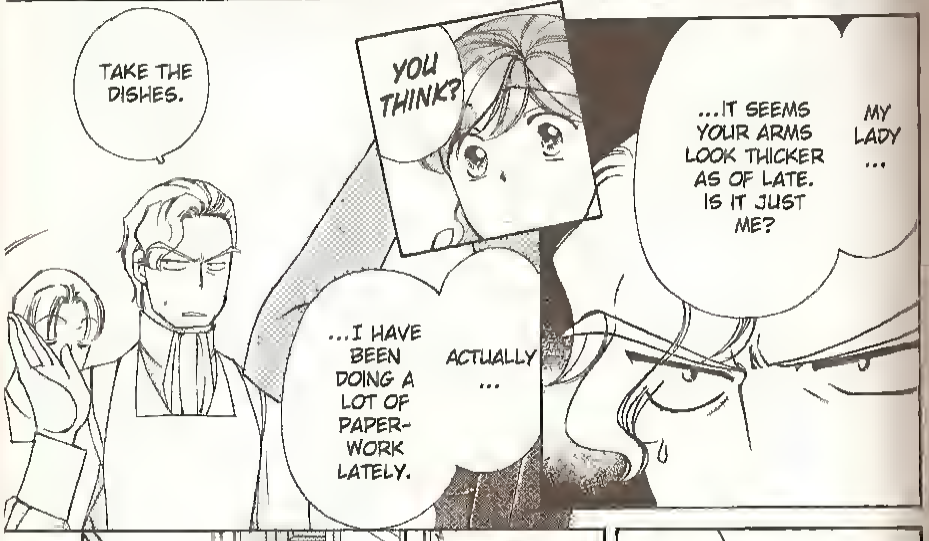
"YOU WILL KNOW ALL FLAVORS FROM SWEET TO BITTER."
I WAS 10 WHEN I STARTED WORKING IN A KITCHEN. THE HEAD CHEF TOLD ME...
"HOWEVER, AS A CHEF, YOU MUST NOT BE AFRAID TO TASTE ANY FLAVOR."
WAIT.
...MAY I DELIVER THE ROYAL MEAL?
SIR GARNA ...
GET RID OF ALL THE RASP-BERRIES.
SCRAP THE DESSERT. WE'LL GO WITH PEAR COMPOTE.
THE RASP-BERRIES ARE TOO SOUR.
HA
Clatter
CLINK

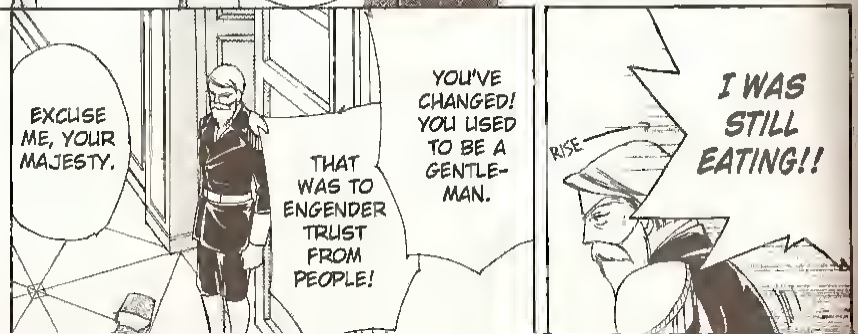

MYSREE!
SIR, HELLO!
YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO LEAVE ME AND OPEN YOUR OWN STORE ONE DAY.
BOSS, WE'RE STILL WITH YOU!
THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO TELL YOU.
NO.
DID YOU COME TO SEE THE BIRDIE?
NOPE.
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU SICK AGAIN?
WHY DON'T YOU SIT DOWN.
IT MIGHT BE TOO SOON, BUT...
...I WANT TO BE AN APOTHECARY JUST LIKE YOU.
Rp. 17/End


A FANTASTIC MEAL TO USE TO SHOW APPRECIATION, A POISONED MEAL TO BETRAY...
TO A CHEF, TRUST IS INDISPENSABLE. A ROYAL MEAL IS USED AS A POLITICAL TOOL.
I HAD ENTERED THIS CASTLE A YEAR AGO TO POISON THE PRINCESS AND WAS IMPRISONED FOR A WHILE.
Apothecarius Argentum
Recipe 18 • Garna's Depression

IF YOU'D LIKE, I'D LOVE TO POISON YOU TOO.
I HEAR HE'S A FORMER ASSASSIN FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY.
HMPH!
I DON'T CARE IF HE SAVED THE DAY IN NAVARA
AGAIN ...
THE NEW HEAD CHEF IS A PICKY FANATIC.
HE THINKS HE'S HOT STUFF.
CONSIDERING YOUR INSENSITIVE TONGUE, I DOUBT YOU WOULD TASTE THE POISON.
harrumph
THAT'S ALL RIGHT...
I'M NOT BEING IMPOSSIBLE.
I FIGHT TO WIN!
UNLIKE THAT MASOCHIST, I WON'T GET DEPRESSED.
YOU TOLD ARGENT THAT HE SHOULDN'T TURN THOSE IN HIS LINE OF WORK AGAINST HIM.
OH NO!


OVEREATING IS NOT HEALTHY!
YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE DO NOT SPOIL HER!
HER FATHER, THE KING OF BEAZOL, SPOILS HER!
PRIMULA, TAKE MINE.


TAKE THE DISHES.
YOU THINK?
...IT SEEMS YOUR ARMS LOOK THICKER AS OF LATE. IS IT JUST ME?
MY LADY ...
...I HAVE BEEN DOING A LOT OF PAPER-WORK LATELY.
ACTUALLY ...


EXCUSE ME, YOUR MAJESTY.
THAT WAS TO ENGENDER TRUST FROM PEOPLE!
YOU'VE CHANGED! YOU USED TO BE A GENTLE-MAN.
RISE
I WAS STILL EATING!!

I WAS SOON BACK AS THE ROYAL CHEF.
I WAS HIRED TO INVESTIGATE NAVARA'S PLAGUE DUE TO MY KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL AS MY FAMILIARITY WITH POISON. THERE, MY ACCOMPLISH-MENTS WERE REWARDED.
FATE IS A TRICK-STER.
CAN I HAVE ANOTHER SERVING, GARNA?
TODAY'S DESSERT IS ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS.
YUM!

COME ON, JUST ONE MORE BITE! PLEASE?
THIS IS PRIN-CESS PRIMULA.
WHY NOT?
NO, MY LADY.
IT'S AMAZING THAT SHE EATS THE MEALS MADE BY HER FORMER ASSASSIN WITH GUSTO.
MEALS ARE PREPARED WITH PROPER NUTRITION IN MIND. YOU'VE BEEN EATING TOO MUCH.

SIR GARNA, HERE ARE THE FOOD SHIPMENTS.
HERE'S A LIST OF THE ITEMS.
PLEASE CONFIRM.
I'M BUSY.
YOU ALSO SAID THAT THE OTHER DAY!
FWAP
I'LL LOOK OVER IT LATER.
I'LL SEE YOU ON THE APPOINTED DATE.
HE IS A SWEET FATHER TO HIS DAUGHTER ...

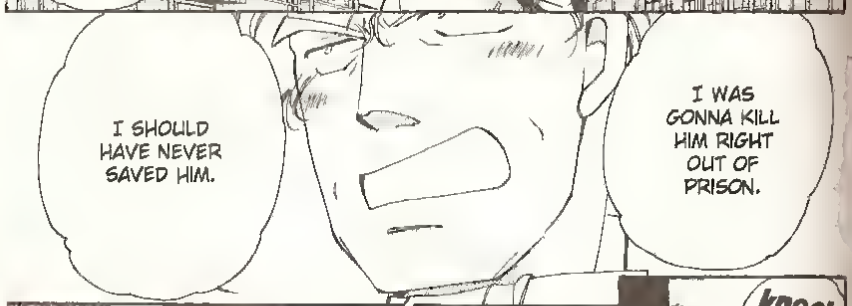
DID YOU NOT FINISH YOUR MEAL? ARE YOU FEELING ILL?
NO, I LEFT BEFORE I GOT CAUGHT UP IN THAT MESS.
IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GAINED ANOTHER FATHER.
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE
SIR GARNA SHIPMENTS HAVE ARRIVED
WAIT, YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY!
ARE YOU SURE ...
...YOU CAN TRUST HIM?
HE COULD BECOME A TRAITOR AT ANY TIME.
THE ASSASSIN IN NAVARA WAS CLOSE TO THEIR PRINCE FOR A LONG TIME...
...AND DECEITFUL WITH HIS TRUE INTENTIONS.
I DON'T TRUST HIM.
THE HUMAN MIND IS FICKLE.
GARNA'S NO EXCEPTION TO THAT RULE.

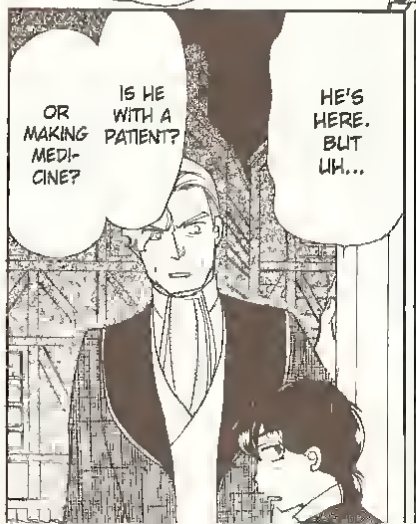
I TOLD YOU I'LL EAT ANYTHING AND EVERY-THING.
YOU TRYING TO TRICK ME?
DON'T EAT THIS!
YOU HEAR ME? THIS IS TOXIC FOR KIDS.
tug
SHOVE
IT'S SO A CERTAIN SOMEBODY WON'T STEAL A BITE.
I'M HERE TO ASK FOR ADVICE.
WHAT DO YOU NEED OF ME?
THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOU ALWAYS LEAVE YOUR GREEN PEPPERS.
I WAS ALSO PRETTY COLD TO HIM WITH THE RECENT EVENTS. I WONDER IF HE'S MAD.
YOU THINK?
HE HASN'T REALLY COME TO SEE ME SINCE.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE RETURNED FROM NAVARA.
ARGENT IS HER FORMER FOOD TASTER. NOW HE'S THE ROYAL APOTHECARY.
I KNEW IT!
ABOUT ARGENT.

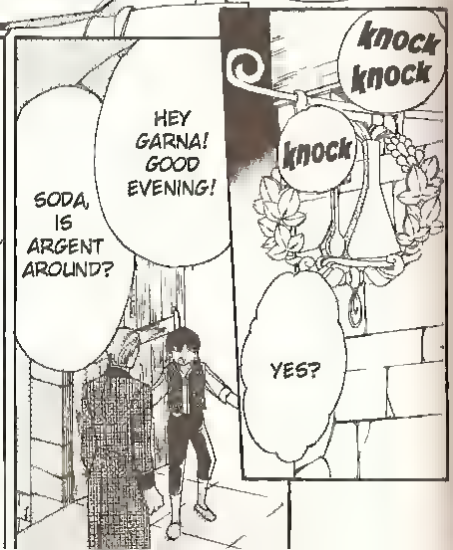
"I COULD TAKE THE MONEY AND BETRAY YOU."
"I'LL SPARE YOUR LIFE IF YOU WORK FOR ME."
"YOU HAVE NO PLACE TO RETURN NOW THAT YOU'RE A FAILED ASSASSIN."
...BUT HE'S A RUTHLESS AND CUNNING KING.
"WHEN THAT HAPPENS, YOU'LL BE A DEAD MAN."
I SAW THAT! YOU JUST HID SOME-THING!
MY LADY?
GARNA, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

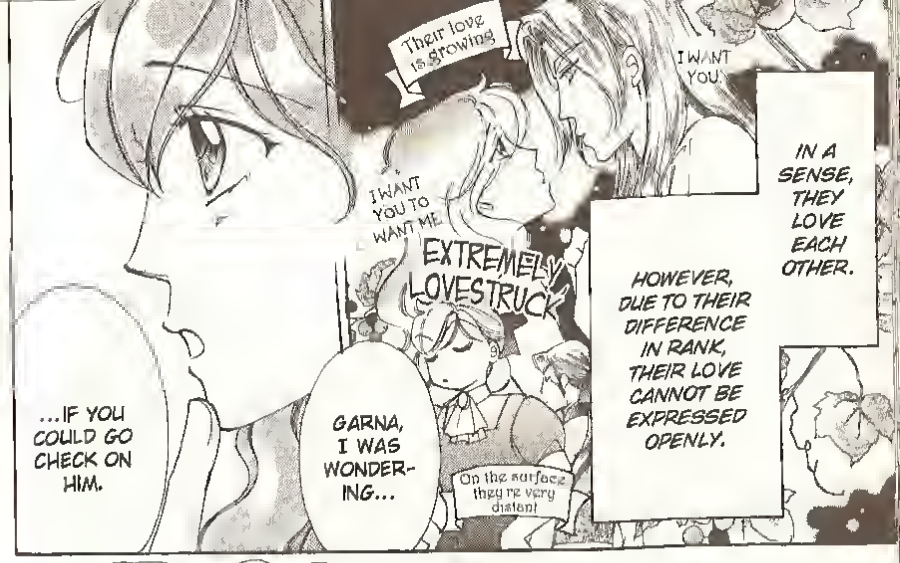
YOU'RE STINGY!

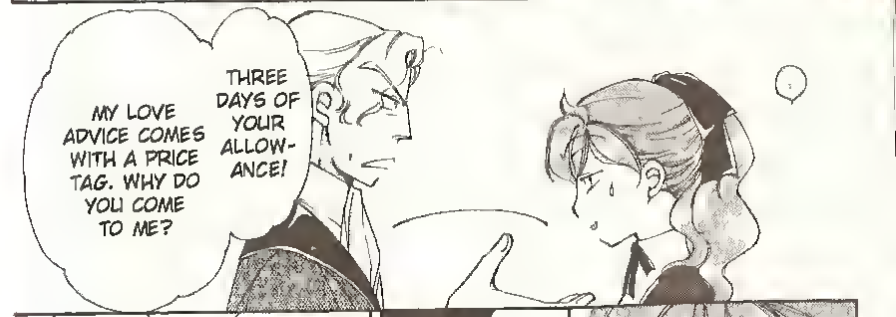
...AND GOT ME IMPRISONED.
IN FACT, ARGENT FOUND OUT WHAT I WAS DOING...
AM I A MESSENGER BOY?!

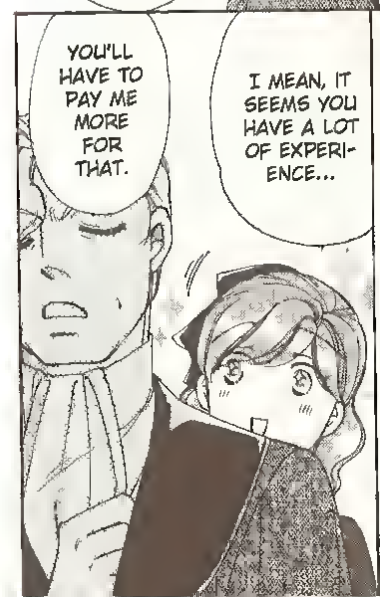

I SHOULD HAVE NEVER SAVED HIM.
I WAS GONNA KILL HIM RIGHT OUT OF PRISON.


OR MAKING MEDI-CINE?
IS HE WITH A PATIENT?
HE'S HERE. BUT UH...

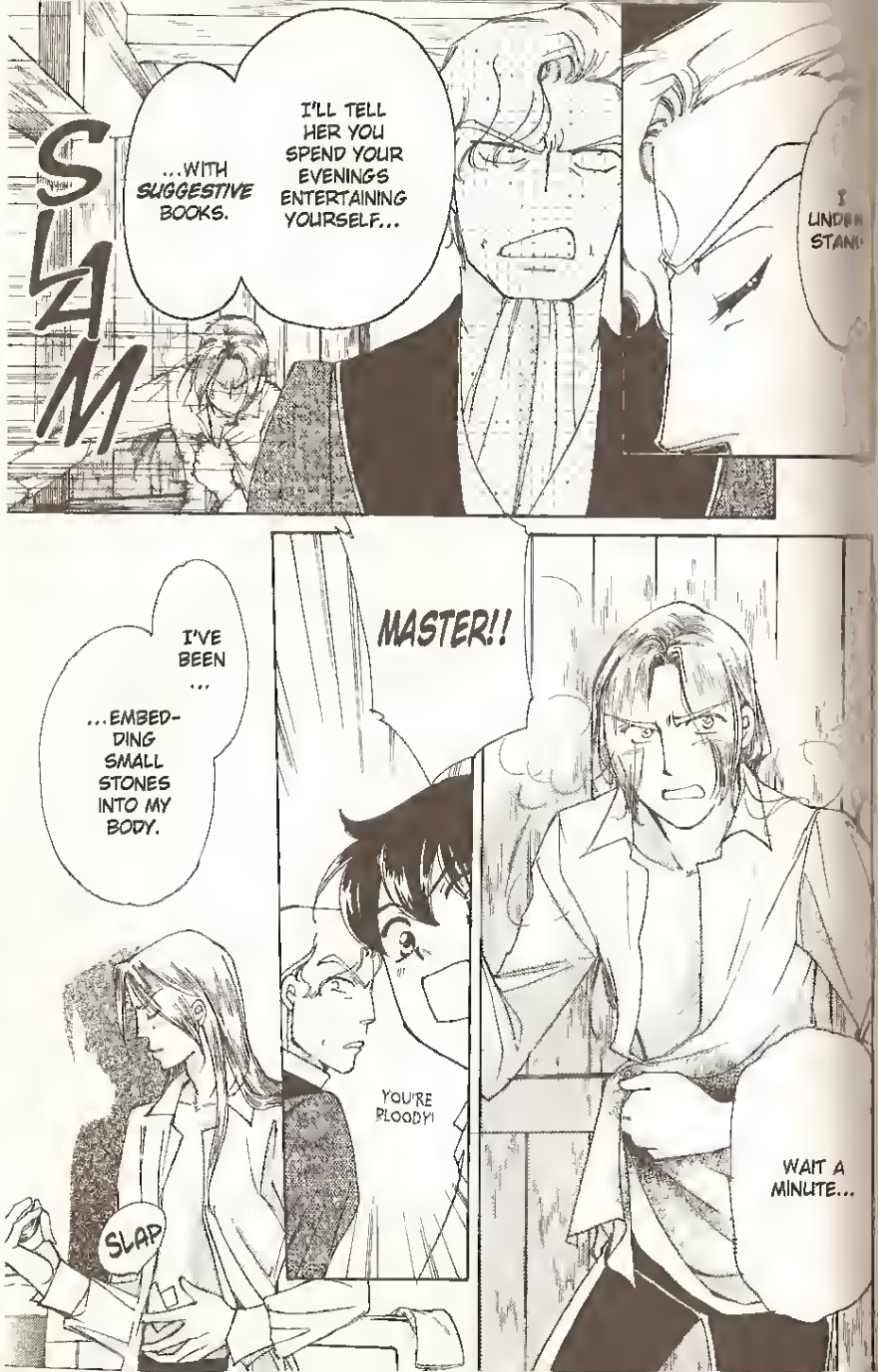

knock knock
knock
HEY GARNA! GOOD EVENING!
SODA, IS ARGENT AROUND?
YES?


Their love is growing
I WANT YOU.
I WANT YOU TO WANT ME.
EXTREMELY LOVESTRUCK
IN A SENSE, THEY LOVE EACH OTHER.
HOWEVER, DUE TO THEIR DIFFERENCE IN RANK, THEIR LOVE CANNOT BE EXPRESSED OPENLY.
On the surface they're very distant
GARNA, I WAS WONDER-ING...
...IF YOU COULD GO CHECK ON HIM.


THREE DAYS OF YOUR ALLOW-ANCE!
MY LOVE ADVICE COMES WITH A PRICE TAG. WHY DO YOU COME TO ME?

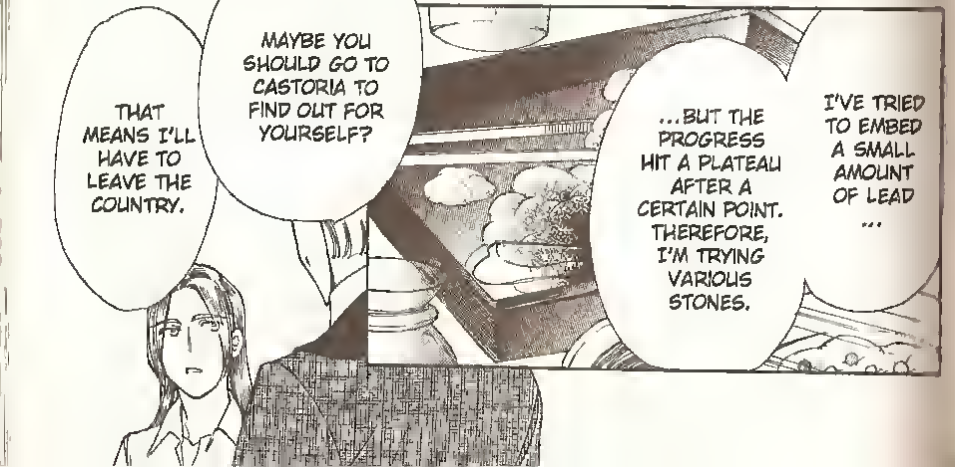

YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY ME MORE FOR THAT.
I MEAN, IT SEEMS YOU HAVE A LOT OF EXPERI-ENCE...

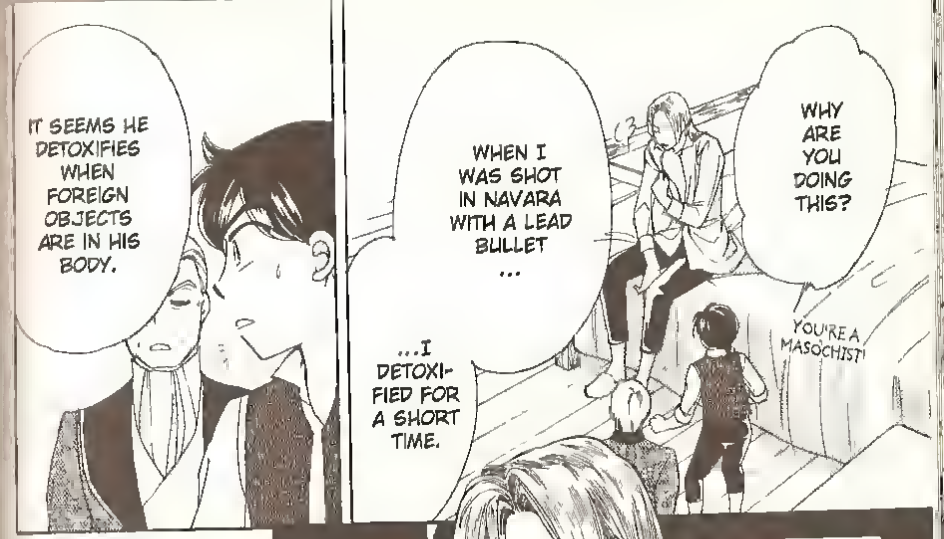
HERE'S 3 DAYS WORTH.
THANK YOU MUCH.
I CAN'T TALK TO MY FATHER.
BESIDES, YOUR ADVICE HAS BEEN GOOD SO FAR.


SLAM
...WITH SUGGESTIVE BOOKS.
I'LL TELL HER YOU SPEND YOUR EVENINGS ENTERTAINING YOURSELF...
I UNDERSTAN
I'VE BEEN ...
...EMBEDDING SMALL STONES INTO MY BODY.
MASTER!!
YOU'RE PLOODY!
SLAP
WAIT A MINUTE...

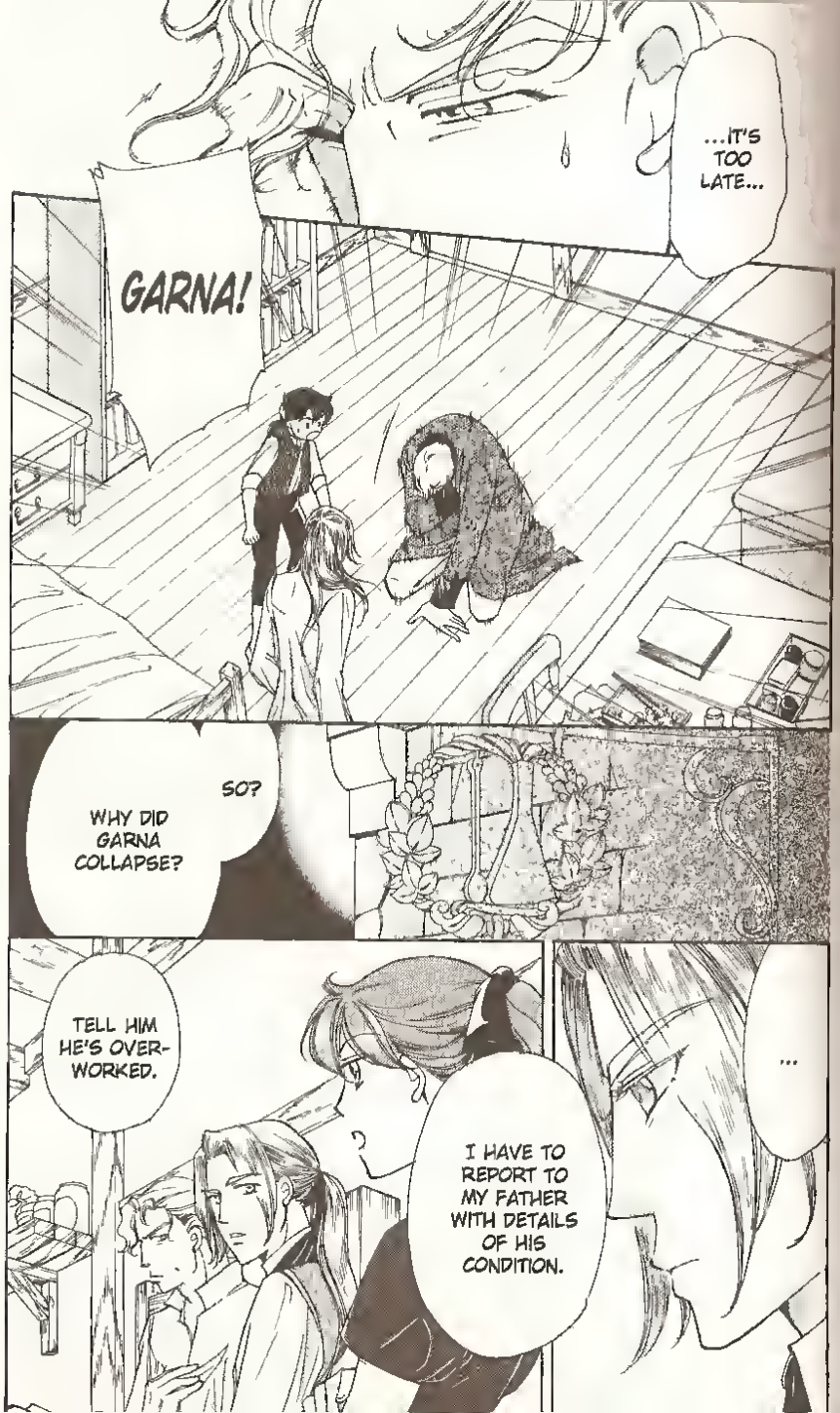
SODA, PLEASE CLEAN UP FOR ME.
BY THE WAY
ACTUALLY, HE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGELY FOR A WHILE.
WHEN I KNOCKED ON HIS DOOR THE OTHER DAY, HE SEEMED PANICKED.
HE WAS PARTIALLY DISROBED WITH A BOOK IN HIS HAND.
ONCE THE PATIENTS GO HOME, HE'LL LOCK HIMSELF UP. HE'S DOING SOMETHING. I DON'T KNOW WHAT.
A BOOK?
IF I RECALL, I KNOW PRINCE LORCA GAVE HIM...
...PRINCE DANIEL'S SECRET BOOK OF LOVE.
knock knock knock
knock knock
IT'S ME, GARNA.
I'M HERE BECAUSE THE PRINCESS WANTS TO KNOW HOW YOU ARE DOING.
PLEASE TELL HER I'M FINE, THANK YOU.
YOU COULD BE RESPECTFUL AND SHOW YOURSELF.
UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE MY HANDS FULL AT THE MOMENT.

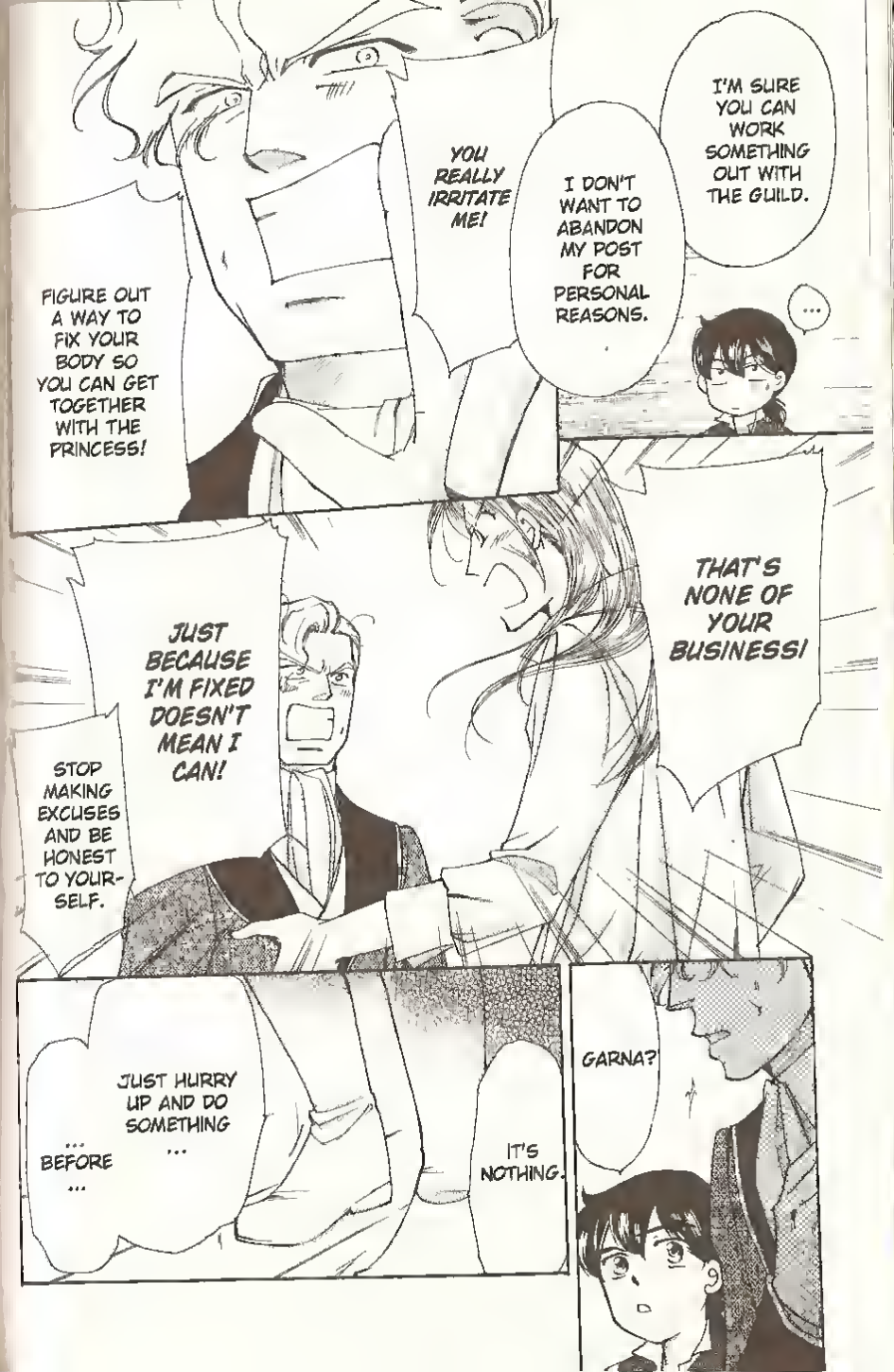
THE BOOK SAYS THE BASILISK THAT REMOVED THE STONE WAS DETOXIFIED.
IT'S A KINGDOM EAST OF BEAZOL.
THEY'RE KNOWN FOR THEIR MINES OF PRECIOUS STONES AND METALS.
IT SOMEHOW CRYSTALLIZED THE POISON WITHIN THE BODY.
THEIR TREASURY CONTAINS MANY ANTIQUE, RARE STONES.


THAT MEANS I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO TO CASTORIA TO FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF?
...BUT THE PROGRESS HIT A PLATEAU AFTER A CERTAIN POINT. THEREFORE, I'M TRYING VARIOUS STONES.
I'VE TRIED TO EMBED A SMALL AMOUNT OF LEAD ...

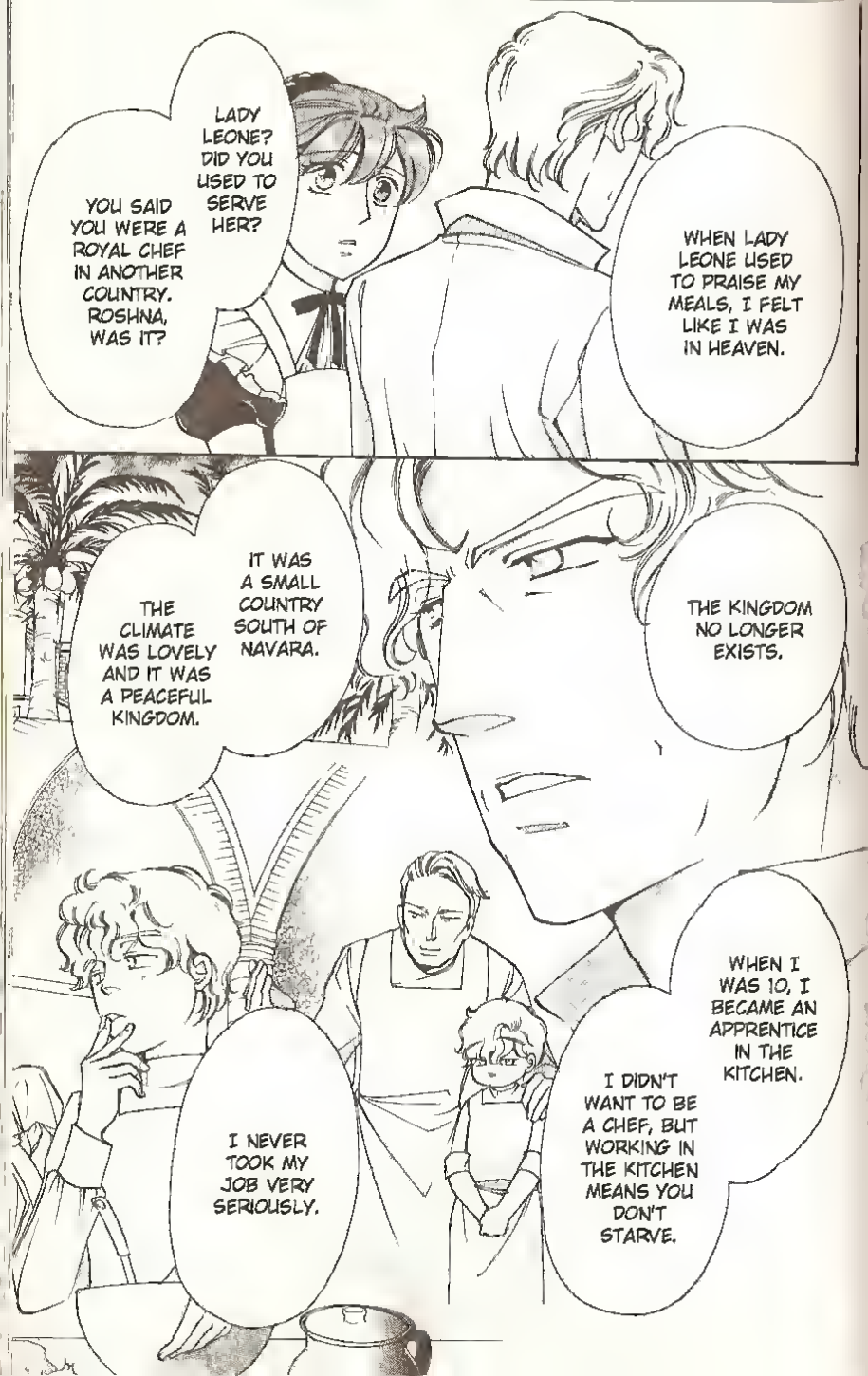

IT SEEMS HE DETOXIFIES WHEN FOREIGN OBJECTS ARE IN HIS BODY.
WHEN I WAS SHOT IN NAVARA WITH A LEAD BULLET ...
...I DETOXIFIED FOR A SHORT TIME.
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
YOU'RE A MASOCHIST!

IT'S ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS HE CANNOT BE UNITED WITH HIS LOVE.
HE WAS FED POISON FROM BIRTH TO BE TURNED INTO A BASILISK.
THE BOOK LORCA GAVE ME TALKS ABOUT A STONE THAT WAS RECOVERED FROM A BASILISK'S BODY.
HE WAS BOUGHT TO BECOME THE PRINCESS' FOOD TASTER, AND NOW HE CREATES MEDICINE FROM TOXIC SUBSTANCES.
CASTORIA?
THIS IS A BOOK ABOUT THE STONES OF CASTORIA.
I SEE.

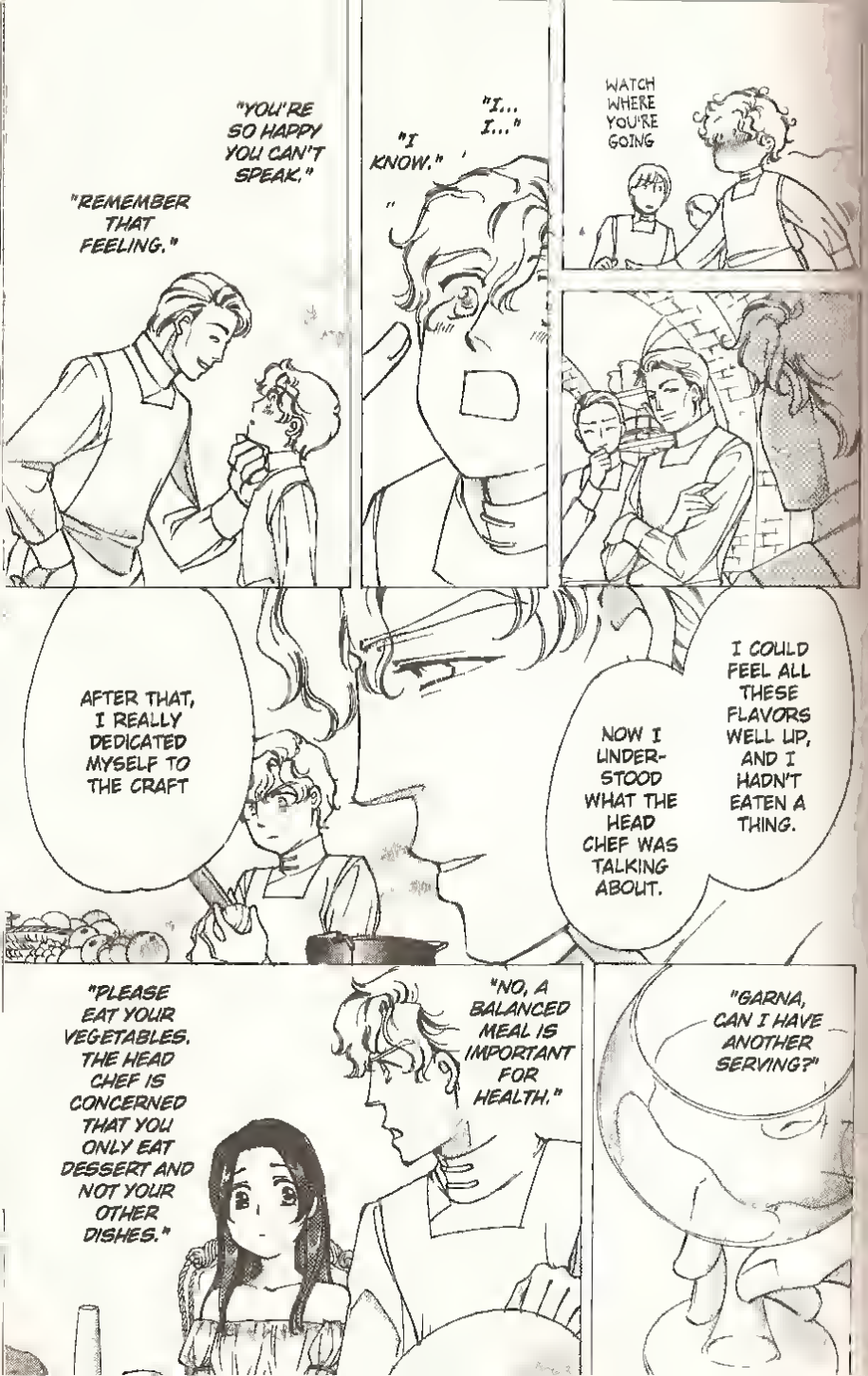

...IT'S TOO LATE...
GARNA!
SO?
WHY DID GARNA COLLAPSE?
TELL HIM HE'S OVER-WORKED.
I HAVE TO REPORT TO MY FATHER WITH DETAILS OF HIS CONDITION.
...


I'M SURE YOU CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT WITH THE GUILD.
...
I DON'T WANT TO ABANDON MY POST FOR PERSONAL REASONS.
YOU REALLY IRRITATE ME!
FIGURE OUT A WAY TO FIX YOUR BODY SO YOU CAN GET TOGETHER WITH THE PRINCESS!
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
JUST BECAUSE I'M FIXED DOESN'T MEAN I CAN!
STOP MAKING EXCUSES AND BE HONEST TO YOUR-SELF.
GARNA?
IT'S NOTHING.
JUST HURRY UP AND DO SOMETHING ...
... BEFORE ...

IF HE'S THAT FEISTY, HE'LL BE FINE.
I'M PATHETIC.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I COLLAPSED.
Knock, knock
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME?
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD NEED TO EAT SO I MADE DINNER.
MY LADY ...
YOU'RE STILL AWAKE?
GARNA, ARE YOU AWAKE?
I KEEP FORGETTING THAT GARNA'S KIND OF OLD.
I THINK YOU DO HAVE TO REDUCE HIS WORKLOAD.
HE'S BEEN WORKING HIS BUTT OFF SINCE HE'S BEEN BACK HERE.
THAT'S TRUE.
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HIM LIKE A DOG!
I'M NOT OLD!
OH HELL!
OH NO...
SLAM
THAT'S ALL I NEED TO RECOVER!
WILL YOU LET ME HAVE MY PEACE?

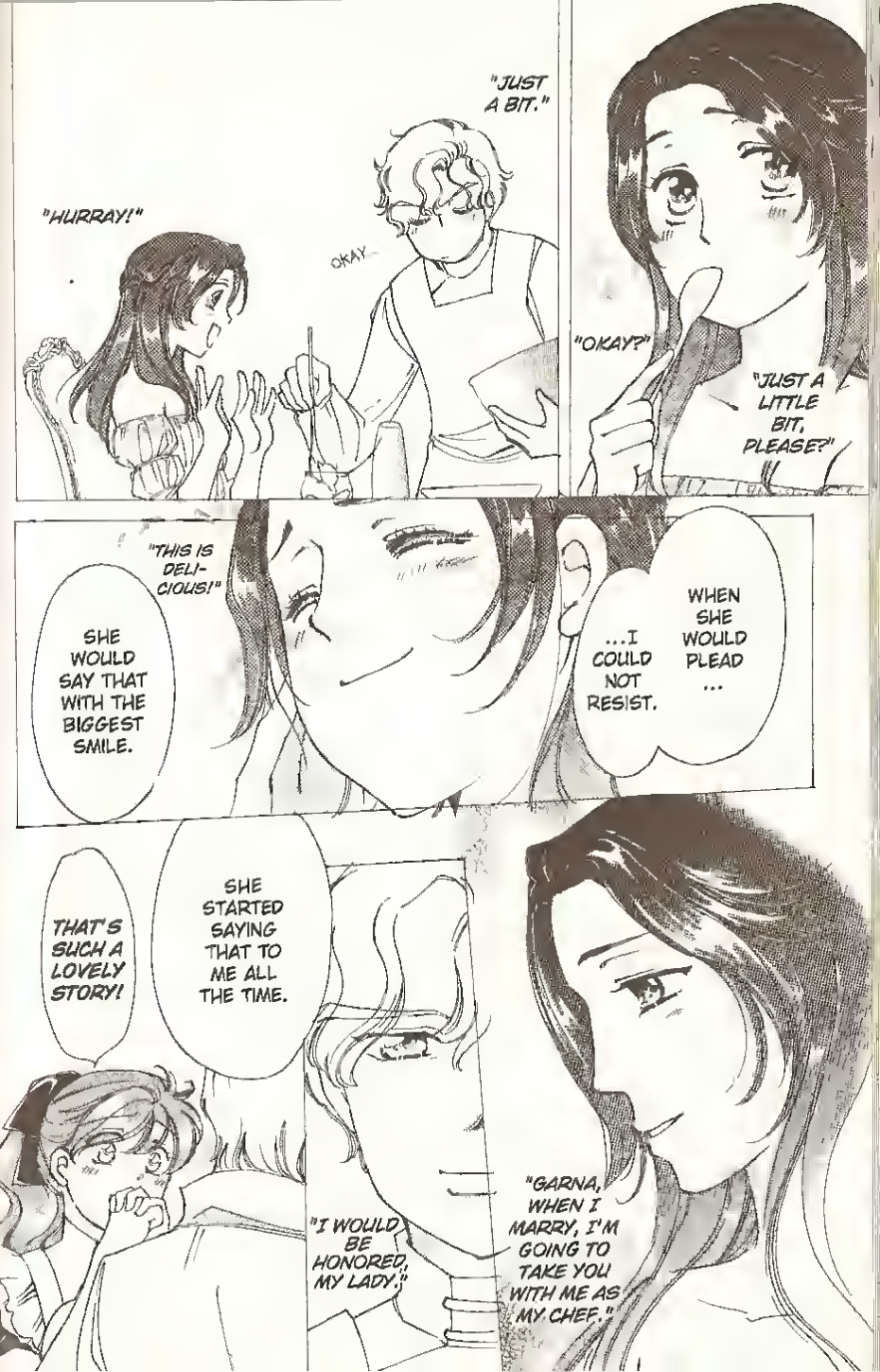

LADY LEONE? DID YOU USED TO SERVE HER?
YOU SAID YOU WERE A ROYAL CHEF IN ANOTHER COUNTRY. ROSHNA, WAS IT?
WHEN LADY LEONE USED TO PRAISE MY MEALS, I FELT LIKE I WAS IN HEAVEN.
IT WAS A SMALL COUNTRY SOUTH OF NAVARA.
THE CLIMATE WAS LOVELY AND IT WAS A PEACEFUL KINGDOM.
THE KINGDOM NO LONGER EXISTS.
I NEVER TOOK MY JOB VERY SERIOUSLY.
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A CHEF, BUT WORKING IN THE KITCHEN MEANS YOU DON'T STARVE.
WHEN I WAS 10, I BECAME AN APPRENTICE IN THE KITCHEN.

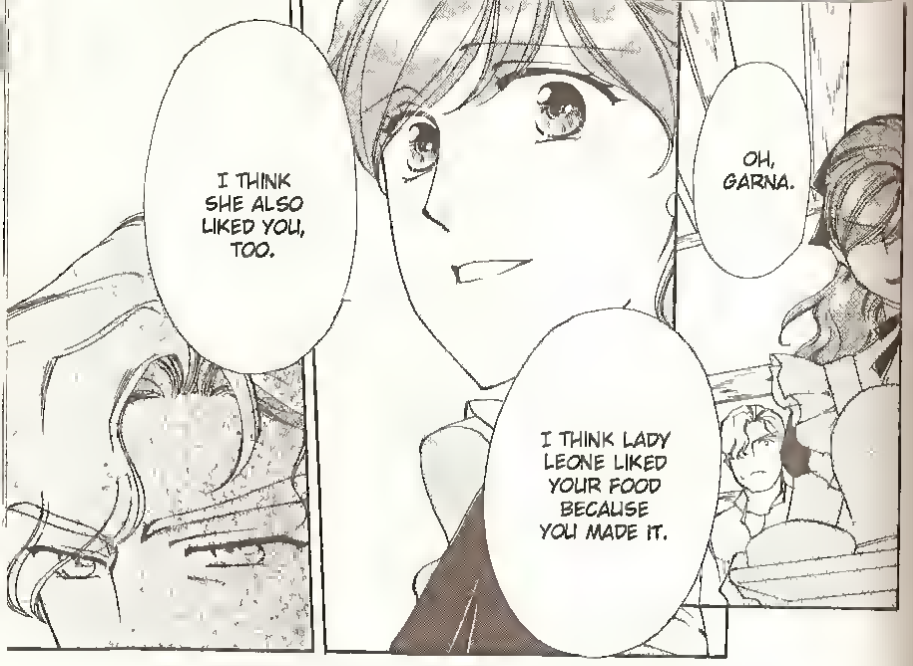
CLATTER
I TOLD YOU I'M PICKY.
YOU'RE A TOUGH ONE TO PLEASE.
ONLY THE SOUP PASSES THE GRADE.
IT'S TURNED INTO AN ADDICTION.
WELL ...
YOU DON'T GIVE UP, DO YOU?
YOU'RE ROYALTY. YOU JUST HAVE TO FOCUS ON EATING, NOT COOKING.
SEEING OTHERS ENJOY YOUR CREATION IS ADDICTIVE.
THAT'S TRUE.
I ALSO WANT SOMEONE TO ENJOY WHAT I MADE.
I LOVE EATING WHAT OTHERS COOK FOR ME, MIND YOU.


"YOU'RE SO HAPPY YOU CAN'T SPEAK."
"REMEMBER THAT FEELING."
"I KNOW."
"I... I..."
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING
AFTER THAT, I REALLY DEDICATED MYSELF TO THE CRAFT
NOW I UNDERSTOOD WHAT THE HEAD CHEF WAS TALKING ABOUT.
I COULD FEEL ALL THESE FLAVORS WELL UP, AND I HADN'T EATEN A THING.
"PLEASE EAT YOUR VEGETABLES. THE HEAD CHEF IS CONCERNED THAT YOU ONLY EAT DESSERT AND NOT YOUR OTHER DISHES."
"NO, A BALANCED MEAL IS IMPORTANT FOR HEALTH."
"GARNA, CAN I HAVE ANOTHER SERVING?"

"ARE YOU GARNA?"
WHEN I ARRIVED AT THE DINING HALL, I FOUND LADY LEONE, WHO WAS ABOUT MY AGE.
I WAS SCARED THAT I DID SOMETHING WRONG.
ONE DAY, I WAS CALLED OUT BY THE KING.
"YES. A BIG PROBLEM. I OVERATE AND COULDN'T TAKE MY WALK AFTER DINNER."
"YES MY LADY, IS THERE A PROBLEM?"
"YOU MADE THE COMPOTE TODAY FOR DESSERT, RIGHT?"
"IT WAS SO DELICIOUS. PLEASE MAKE IT AGAIN."
SWOOSH

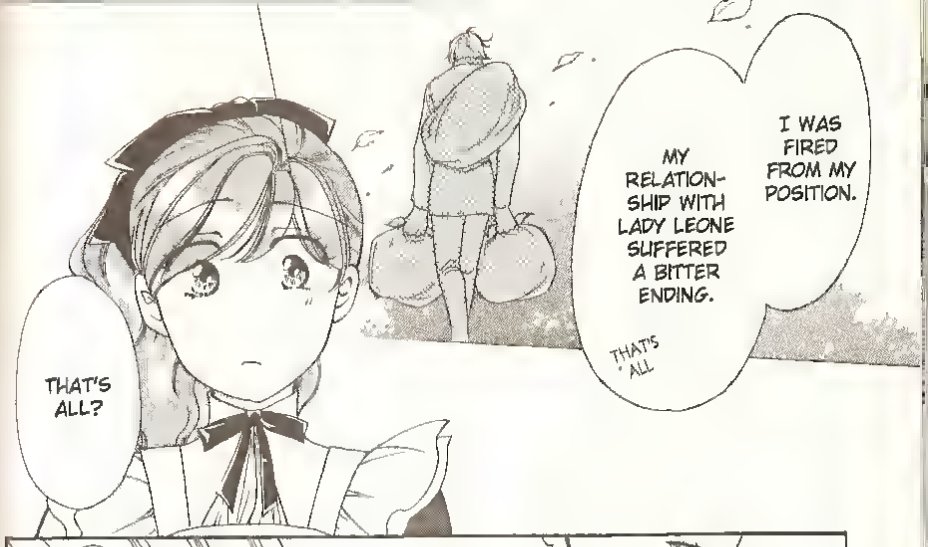
WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR HER TO GET MARRIED, PRINCES WOULD REFUSE BASED ON HER WEIGHT.
HER UNBALANCED DIET BECAME AN ISSUE. LADY LEONE GAINED AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF WEIGHT OVER TIME.
...REALITY WASN'T SO KIND.
UNFORTUNATELY...
?
SALT
"I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!"
"THE FOOD YOU MAKE IS TOO DELICIOUS!"
"IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, GARNA!"


"HURRAY!"
OKAY...
"JUST A BIT."
"OKAY?"
"JUST A LITTLE BIT, PLEASE?"
"THIS IS DELICIOUS!"
SHE WOULD SAY THAT WITH THE BIGGEST SMILE.
...I COULD NOT RESIST.
WHEN SHE WOULD PLEAD ...
THAT'S SUCH A LOVELY STORY!
SHE STARTED SAYING THAT TO ME ALL THE TIME.
"I WOULD BE HONORED, MY LADY."
"GARNA, WHEN I MARRY, I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU WITH ME AS MY CHEF."

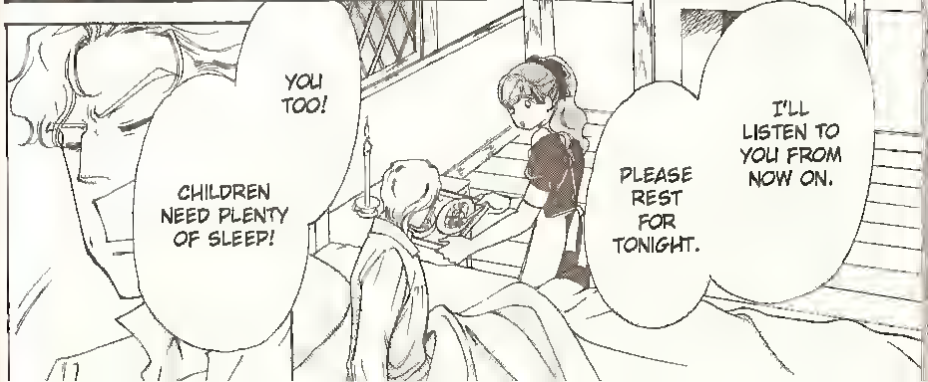

I THINK SHE ALSO LIKED YOU, TOO.
OH, GARNA.
I THINK LADY LEONE LIKED YOUR FOOD BECAUSE YOU MADE IT.

I THOUGHT SO.
YOU'RE THE MASTER LOVE ADVISOR!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME WHAT I ALREADY KNOW.

YOU ALSO NEED TO STOP INDULGING THE PRINCESS.
YOU HEARD THE STORY.
SIZZLE
I HOPE YOU'LL GIVE ME MORE ADVICE IN THE FUTURE.
SHUT


I WAS FIRED FROM MY POSITION.
MY RELATION-SHIP WITH LADY LEONE SUFFERED A BITTER ENDING.
THAT'S ALL
THAT'S ALL?

I LEARNED THE HARD WAY.
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO BE CRUEL IF YOU WANT THE BEST FOR ANOTHER PERSON.
THEREFORE, YOU WILL *NEVER* GET ME TO BREAK DOWN EVEN IF YOU *THREATEN* ME!
I UNDERSTAND, GARNA.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED

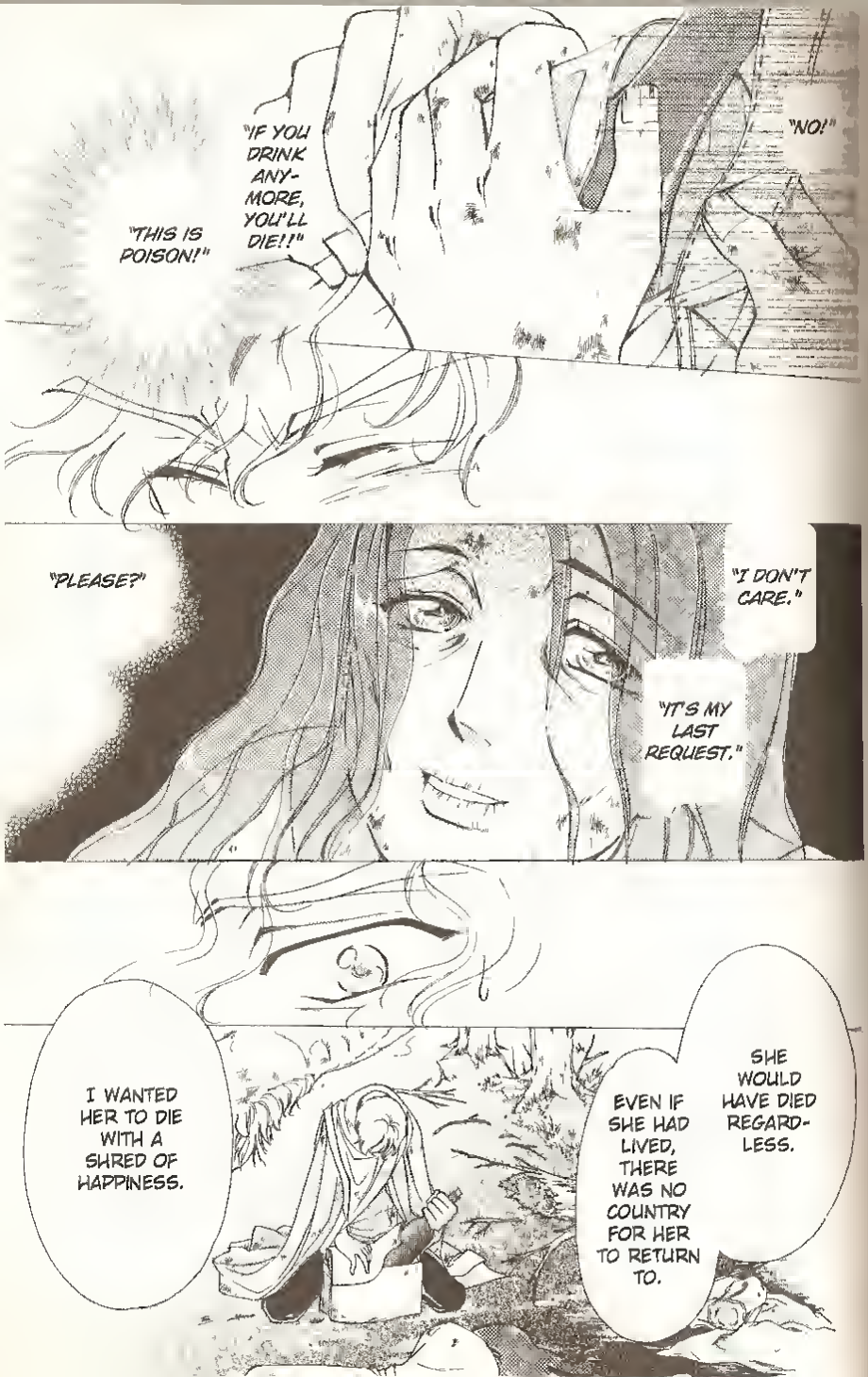

I'LL LISTEN TO YOU FROM NOW ON.
PLEASE REST FOR TONIGHT.
YOU TOO!
CHILDREN NEED PLENTY OF SLEEP!

I'LL NEVER REPEAT THIS AGAIN SO LISTEN UP.
A YEAR AFTER I WAS FIRED ...
...LADY LEONE CAME TO MY RESIDENCE WITH A SMILE.
"I'M SORRY, GARNA. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT."
"I'VE DECIDED TO EAT HEALTHY. PLEASE COME BACK."
THE PALACE WAS A DIFFERENT SIGHT.
IT WAS FILLED WITH FOREIGN TOOLS AND FOODS.
"WE STARTED TRADING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES A FEW MONTHS AGO."
"THIS IS A RIFLE. IT CAN MAKE A LOUD NOISE, BUT IT CAN ALSO BE USED TO KILL ANIMALS."
"THIS IS A LIQUID THAT KILLS UNWANTED PESTS."
EAVES-DROPPING EH? HOW SNEAKY OF YOU.
I WAS JUST WAITING TO GIVE YOU SOME MEDICINE, THAT'S ALL.
I DON'T INDULGE HER...
IT WON'T BE TO HER BENEFIT ... ARGENT.
I HAVE WORKED ON MAKING MY MEDICA-TION TASTE BETTER.
THERE'S MORE TO THIS STORY.
THIS IS AN OPPOR-TUNITY.
tap

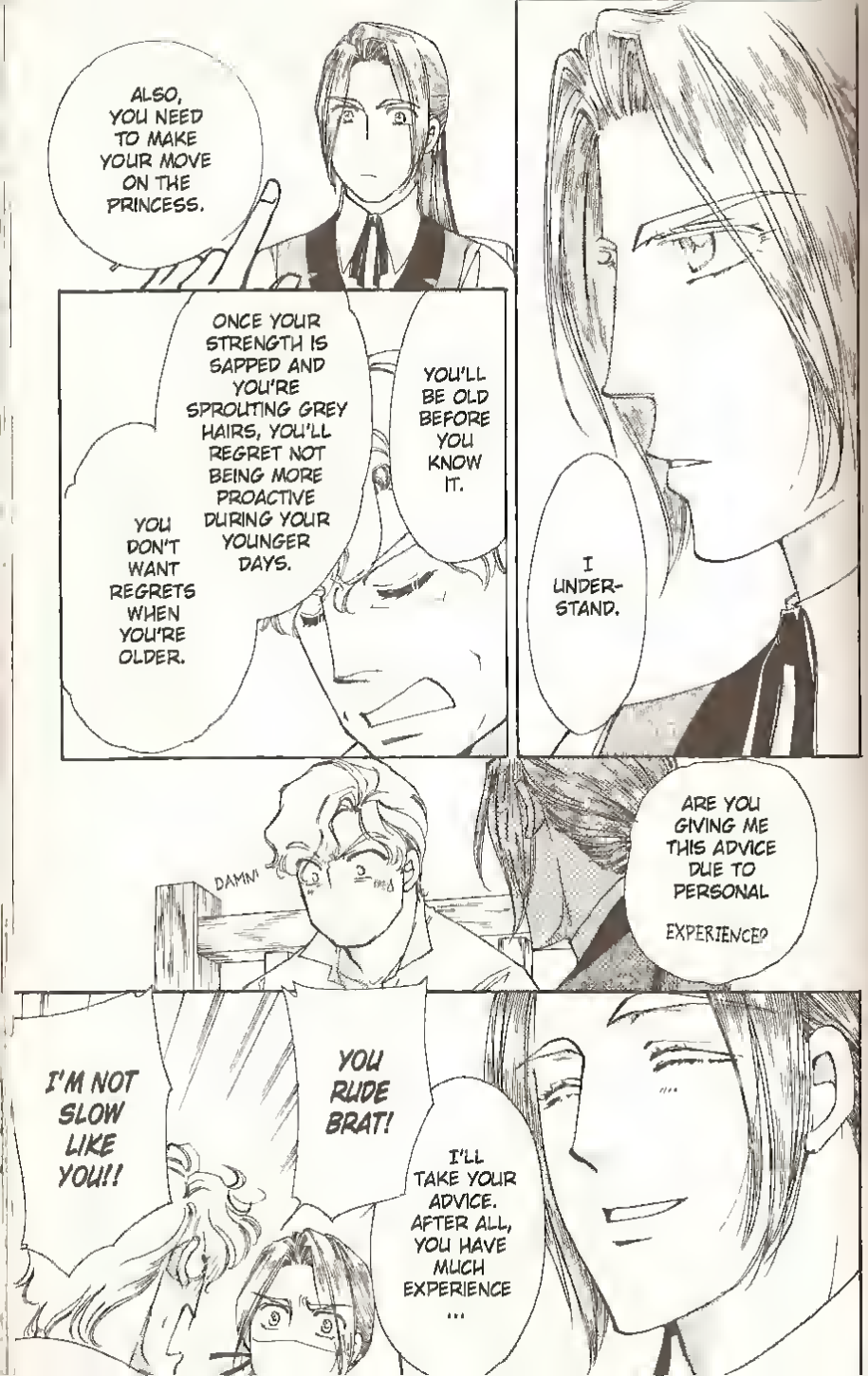
"I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH IT COSTS!"
"I NEED THAT FRUIT WINE!"
"THIS WON'T DO!"
"NO!"
"THIS YEAR, THIS WINE IS EXQUISITELY FLAVORED ..."
"I HEAR OTHER NOBLEMEN ARE HOARDING IT AS WELL."
"WHY IS LADY LEONE SO INSISTENT ON THAT PARTICULAR FRUIT WINE?"
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS THAT DELICIOUS...
WHEN I FIRST TASTED IT, I DID NOT TASTE IT. HOWEVER, THIS TIME, I TASTED A HINT OF BITTERNESS.
"COULD IT BE...?"

"THIS IS ALSO FOREIGN FRUIT WINE."
"DON'T YOU THINK I LOST SOME WEIGHT?"
"IT CONTAINS JUJUBE AND PEARS. IT'S SUPPOSED TO REFRESH YOUR BODY AND IMPROVE YOUR APPEARANCE."
"IT'S VERY POPULAR AMONG THE ARISTOCRATS."
"HOW IS THE TASTE?"
BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HARMFUL.
I DOUBT IT WILL CAUSE WEIGHT LOSS...
THIS MUST BE SOME KIND OF MEDICINAL WINE.
"IT'S BEEN HARD TO ACQUIRE LATELY. I CAN BRING YOU ANOTHER WINE IF YOU'D LIKE."
"WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE'S NO MORE OF THAT FRUIT WINE?!"
UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS WRONG.

IT'S A STRONG ANESTHETIC. YOU USE IT FOR SURGERY AND ALSO TO RELIEVE THE SUFFERING OF TERMINAL PATIENTS.
IT'S ADDICTIVE, AND GIVES PEOPLE AN INCREDIBLE SENSE OF WELL-BEING.
WHEN THE BODY IS DEPLETED OF THE EXTRACT, IT CAN CAUSE HALLUCINATIONS AND EXTREME WITHDRAWAL.
IT'S...
...STRONG MEDICINE BUT POISONOUS AT THE SAME TIME.
THAT SUBSTANCE WILL POSSESS THE HUMAN SOUL.
THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THAT WINE.
THE FLAVOR OF THE WINE OVERWHELMED IT, SO I WAS UNSURE.
I HAD NOTICED IT BECAUSE THE PRODUCT HAD GOTTEN STRONGER.
IT WAS HARD TO DETECT WHAT THE SUBSTANCE WAS. AFTER 6 MONTHS OF TRYING, A FOREIGN APOTHECARY FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT.
IT WAS POPPY EXTRACT.
POPPY?
AH, YOU ARE A BASILISK.
SO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

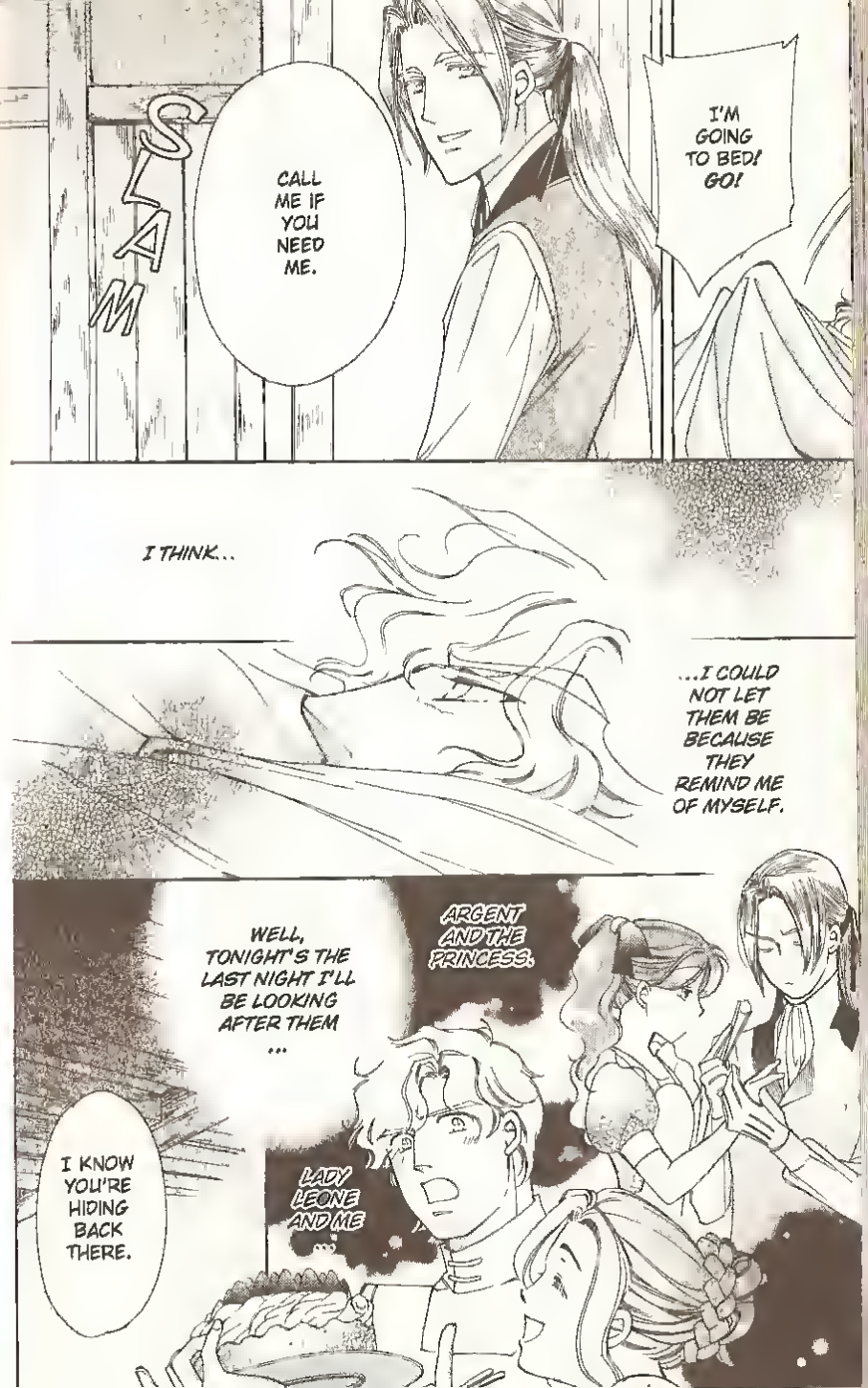

"THIS IS POISON!"
"IF YOU DRINK ANY-MORE, YOU'LL DIE!!"
"NO!"
"PLEASE?"
"I DON'T CARE."
"IT'S MY LAST REQUEST."
I WANTED HER TO DIE WITH A SHRED OF HAPPINESS.
EVEN IF SHE HAD LIVED, THERE WAS NO COUNTRY FOR HER TO RETURN TO.
SHE WOULD HAVE DIED REGARD-LESS.

THE FIGHT OVER THE WINE TURNED A PEACEFUL COUNTRY UPSIDE DOWN.
THE COMMONERS AS WELL AS THE NOBILITY WERE ADDICTED.
BY THE TIME WE FOUND OUT, IT WAS TOO LATE.
WE WAGED WAR WITH A COUNTRY FROM THE SOUTH. THE ENEMY WAS WINNING AND THE COUNTRY WAS ABOUT TO BE INVADED.
I TOOK LADY LEONE AND RAN.
HOW-EVER ...
... WE WERE UNABLE TO ESCAPE THE DRUG.
"GARNA, I NEED IT."
"JUST A LITTLE BIT."


ALSO, YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR MOVE ON THE PRINCESS.
YOU'LL BE OLD BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.
ONCE YOUR STRENGTH IS SAPPED AND YOU'RE SPROUTING GREY HAIRS, YOU'LL REGRET NOT BEING MORE PROACTIVE DURING YOUR YOUNGER DAYS.
YOU DON'T WANT REGRETS WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.
I UNDER-STAND.
ARE YOU GIVING ME THIS ADVICE DUE TO PERSONAL EXPERIENCE?
DAMN!
YOU RUDE BRAT!
I'M NOT SLOW LIKE YOU!!
I'LL TAKE YOUR ADVICE. AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE ...

I WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE BY THE ENEMY.
"THANK YOU, GARNA."
SOON, I WAS AN ASSASSIN WHO SPECIALIZED IN POISONING FOOD.
EVEN THOUGH I KNEW IT WAS POISONOUS.
SO I GAVE HER THE LAST DRINK.
NAVARA MANAGED TO RECOVER AT THE LAST MOMENT, BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET.
THAT'S HOW THEY WORK. BE CAREFUL.

YOU'VE BEEN HARASSING ME LONG ENOUGH, DON'T YOU THINK?
WE'RE ALONE NOW. WHY DON'T YOU SHOW YOURSELF?
CLATTER
ABOUT THIS OFFER?
IF I SUCCESS-FULLY KILL THE PRINCESS, THEY'LL FORGIVE MY INITIAL MISTAKE?
THAT'S BECAUSE I DIDN'T RECEIVE AN ANSWER FROM YOU.

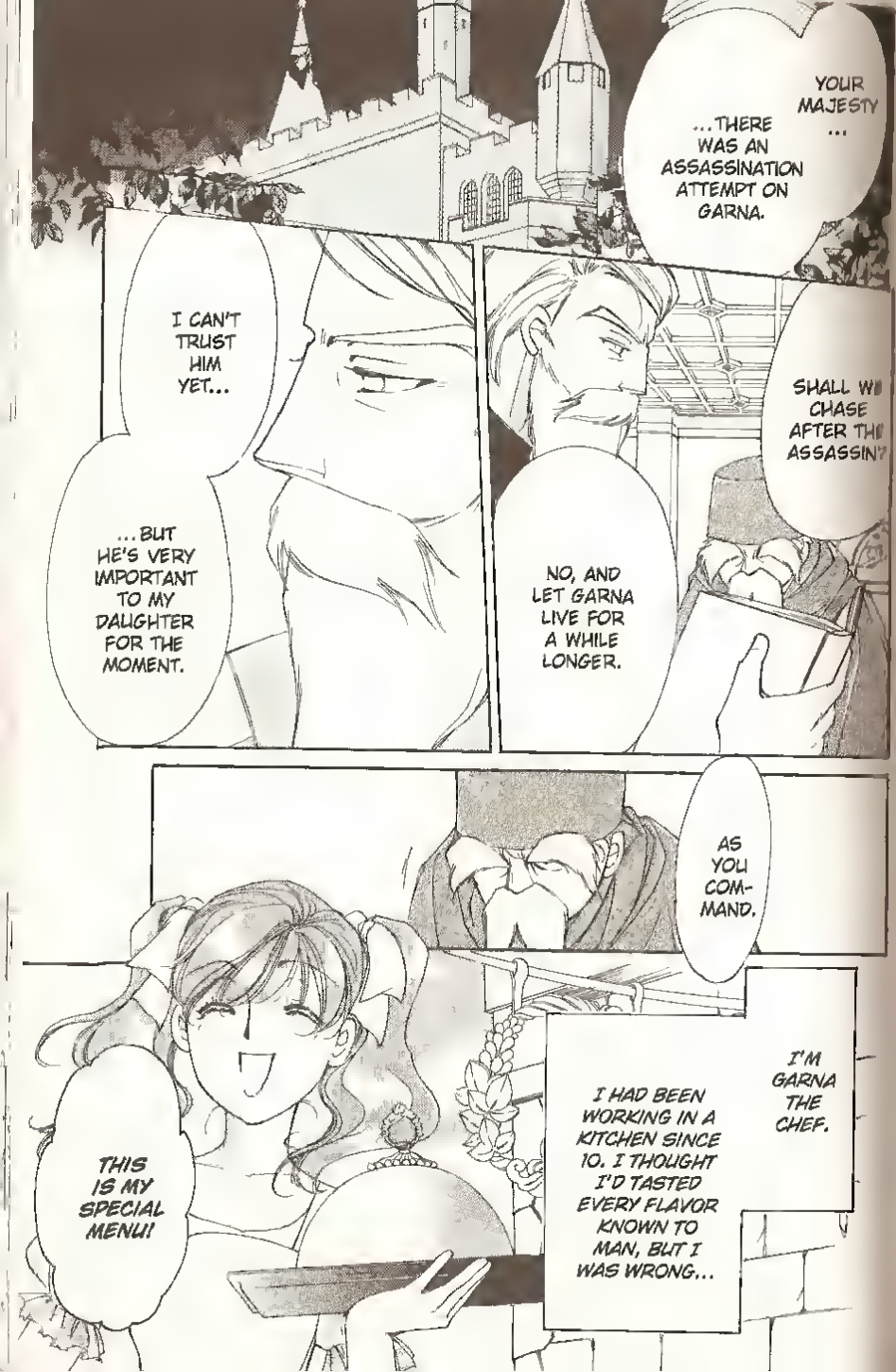

SLAM
CALL ME IF YOU NEED ME.
I'M GOING TO BED! GO!
I THINK...
...I COULD NOT LET THEM BE BECAUSE THEY REMIND ME OF MYSELF.
WELL, TONIGHT'S THE LAST NIGHT I'LL BE LOOKING AFTER THEM ...
ARGENT AND THE PRINCESS.
I KNOW YOU'RE HIDING BACK THERE.
LADY LEONE AND ME

THUD
I'LL TAKE CARE OF MYSELF...!
YOU'VE STABBED YOURSELF WITH A POISONED ARROW...
!
THAT PRINCESS IS WORTH DYING FOR?
I DON'T KNOW. I SUPPOSE I'VE BEEN ENCHANTED...
GARNA?
SLAM
WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?
IT CAME FROM GARNA'S ROOM.

SCRUNCH
SORRY, BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED!
I'M A CHEF. I'M NO LONGER INTERESTED IN KILLING PEOPLE.
YOU CAN RETURN WITH THAT MESSAGE TO YOUR LEADER.
I'M ALSO AWARE THAT YOU'VE BEEN SLIPPING POISON INTO THE FOOD DELIVERY. YOU CAN'T FOOL MY TONGUE.
I'VE TOSSED OUT EVERY-THING THAT WAS POISON-OUS.
YOU WERE ACTING AS A VOLUNTARY FOOD-TASTER?
I'M STILL A NORMAL HUMAN BEING.
IT'S A SMALL AMOUNT, BUT IT'S ALREADY DOING ME IN.
IF THAT'S YOUR ANSWER ...
PREPARE TO DIE!

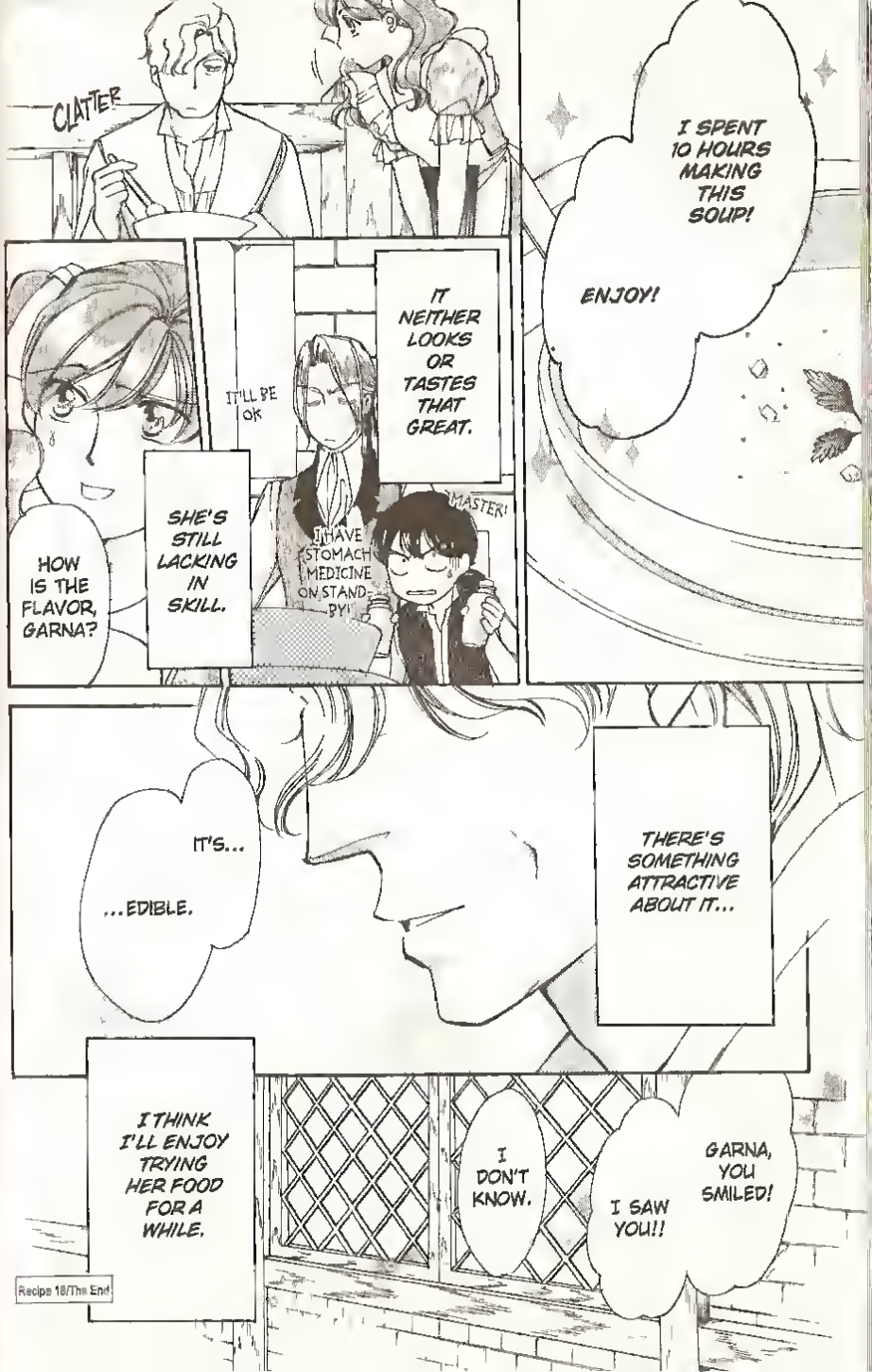
WAS WHAT?
THE MEDICATION I GAVE YOU WAS AN ANTIDOTE.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIE.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DYING BUT YOU KEEP TALKING...
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING A LITTLE ODD LATELY.
I THOUGHT ARGENT WOULD FIGURE IT OUT, SO I SENT YOU TO HIM.
...
WE FOUND OUT THAT YOU WERE BEING POISONED.
POISON
I THINK IT'S..
I KNEW IT!
WE THOUGHT SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN TONIGHT SO WE WANTED TO WATCH OVER YOU.
WE WANTED TO STOP YOU BEFORE YOU TRIED TO KILL YOURSELF.
BUT WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THEY THOUGHT YOU KILLED YOURSELF.
I'M SORRY
THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE!

GARNA!
I KNEW WHEN I FAILED MY ASSASSINATION THAT...
...I WOULD HAVE TO PAY A PRICE.
THIS WAS FOR THE BEST.
TELL THE PRINCESS ...
...THAT HER MAIN COURSE WAS FLAVORED WELL THIS EVENING.
MY LADY ...
I WON'T LAST THAT LONG.
YES YOU WILL.
REALLY?
I'LL COOK IT AGAIN TOMORROW.


YOUR MAJESTY ...
...THERE WAS AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON GARNA.
I CAN'T TRUST HIM YET...
...BUT HE'S VERY IMPORTANT TO MY DAUGHTER FOR THE MOMENT.
NO, AND LET GARNA LIVE FOR A WHILE LONGER.
AS YOU COM-MAND.
I'M GARNA THE CHEF.
I HAD BEEN WORKING IN A KITCHEN SINCE 10. I THOUGHT I'D TASTED EVERY FLAVOR KNOWN TO MAN, BUT I WAS WRONG...
THIS IS MY SPECIAL MENU!

BESIDES, I STILL HAVEN'T SEEN...
I'VE GOTTEN GOOD AT BLUFFING.
I STILL NEED YOU, GARNA.
PINCH
...YOU SMILE AFTER TASTING MY COOKING.
ONE DAY, YOU'RE GOING TO!
ROGER!
SLUMP
PLEASE FOCUS ON THE SOUPS FIRST.
AFTER YOUR MEAL, MAKE SURE THERE'S ARGENT'S MEDICINE AVAILABLE JUST IN CASE.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

Apothecarius Argentum
Recipe 19 • Travel


CLATTER
I SPENT 10 HOURS MAKING THIS SOUP!
ENJOY!
IT NEITHER LOOKS OR TASTES THAT GREAT.
IT'LL BE OK
SHE'S STILL LACKING IN SKILL.
HOW IS THE FLAVOR, GARNA?
MASTER!
I HAVE STOMACH MEDICINE ON STAND-BY!
THERE'S SOMETHING ATTRACTIVE ABOUT IT...
IT'S...
...EDIBLE.
I THINK I'LL ENJOY TRYING HER FOOD FOR A WHILE.
I DON'T KNOW.
I SAW YOU!!
GARNA, YOU SMILED!
Recipe 18/The End

THEY HAVE BEEN SLOWLY DOSED WITH POISON SINCE BIRTH AND TRAINED IN THE DEADLY ARTS. FLOWERS WILT WHEN THEY TOUCH THEM. THEIR BLOOD BURNS LIKE ACID AND CAN BE FATAL IF IT ENTERS ANOTHER BODY.
HE'S A BASILISK. A SECRET, ANCIENT EASTERN ORGANIZATION RAISED HUMAN WEAPONS TO BE USED AS ASSASSINS.
HE'S A WISE PURCHASE FOR AN IMPORTANT MAN LIKE YOU, KING.
HE CAN'T BE POISONED. HE 'S A PERFECT FOOD TASTER, BUT THERE'S MANY USES FOR HIS KIND...
THRUST
IF YOU REFUSE ...
IT'S A SIMPLE ENOUGH JOB. YOU JUST HAVE TO TASTE MY DAUGHTER'S FOOD BEFORE SHE DOES. YOU'LL BE ABLE TO EAT LIKE A KING EVERY DAY.
DON'T YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME?

MY FIRST MEMORY IS THAT OF WAR AND STARVATION.
THEN I REMEMBER BEING WITH OTHER ORPHANS IN A DARK, CROWDED CELL.
WE NEVER STARVED THERE. BUT OTHER CHILDREN STARTED TO DIE ONE BY ONE...
THEY WOULD TELL US TO EAT IF WE WANTED TO LIVE.
BY THE TIME I LEFT, I WAS NO LONGER HUMAN...

CHATTER
CHATTER
THE SOLVENT FOR EXTRACTION IS DIFFERENT. I SEE.
NO WONDER HE'S THE ROYAL APOTHECARY.
IN THAT CASE, THIS IS THE END OF THIS MONTH'S MEETING.
SLAM
SHE DID NOT FEAR MY TOXIC BODY.
INSTEAD, SHE ALLOWED ME TO LIVE A NEW LIFE AS "ARGENT."
MASTER, I KNOW THIS IS A GUILD SESSION BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO REVEAL ALL YOUR SECRETS?
WOULDN'T IT AFFECT OUR BUSINESS?
YOU SAID MY TALENT SHOULD BE SHARED WITH OTHERS.
Ugh
HELLO, BOSS!
ARGENT!
LET THE LEADER OF THE GUILD BUY YOU A DRINK.
WANT TO JOIN ME FOR A DRINK?
ANY QUESTIONS?
THAT WAS THE LECTURE ON EXTRACTING ACTIVE CONSTITUENTS FROM DIGITALIS.

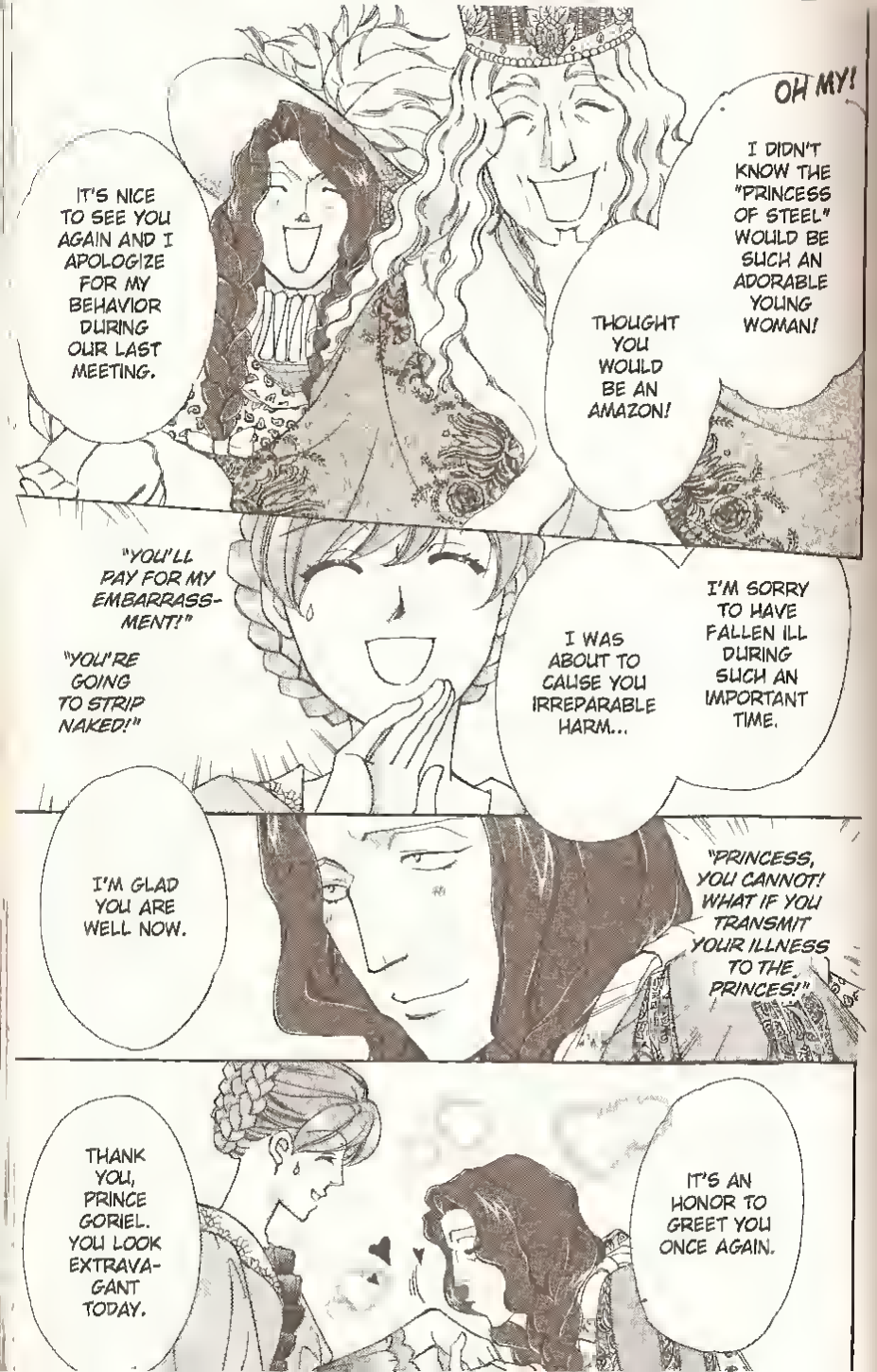
...!
WOULD HE RATHER LIVE HIS LIFE IN THE SHADOWS AS AN ASSASSIN, ALWAYS ON THE RUN, OR WOULD HE RATHER LIVE IN PEACE IN THIS PALACE AND HELP OTHERS?
I'LL KILL YOU RIGHT NOW FOR YOUR INSOLENCE.
NOW CHOOSE!
LOOK AT YOUR SILVER HAIR! SO PRETTY! YOU ALSO SMELL LIKE PERFUME! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
AT THE SAME TIME, HE PROVIDED ME WITH LIGHT.
THE KING INSTILLED FEAR INSIDE ME.
THE POISON HAS NOT AFFECTED YOUR SOUL! LIVE AS A FREE MAN!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU CAN DO. START OVER AND LIVE A FULL LIFE.
ARGENT, YOU MUST DISAPPEAR FROM MY SIGHT!

I WONDER WHAT THE PHYSICAL ISSUES ARE ABOUT...
HE'S DRUNK FOR SURE.
DON'T BE SO UPTIGHT! BAR-MISTRESS, GIVE MY MASTER ANOTHER DRINK!
YOU'RE NOT OLD ENOUGH TO DRINK!
DRUNK
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THERE'S A LOT OF VISITORS TO THE CASTLE SINCE THE PEACE AGREEMENT WITH NAVARA.
I SEE...
APPARENTLY, FOREIGN AMBASSADORS ARE COMING SO THE CASTLE HAS BOUGHT UP THE ALCOHOL.
WE'RE DONE WITH SERVING ALCOHOL FOR THE DAY!
Beazo!...
ANOTHER FOREIGN AMBASSADOR?
COMPLAIN TO GARNA, THE ROYAL CHEF.
THE BAR-MISTRESS IS STINGY!

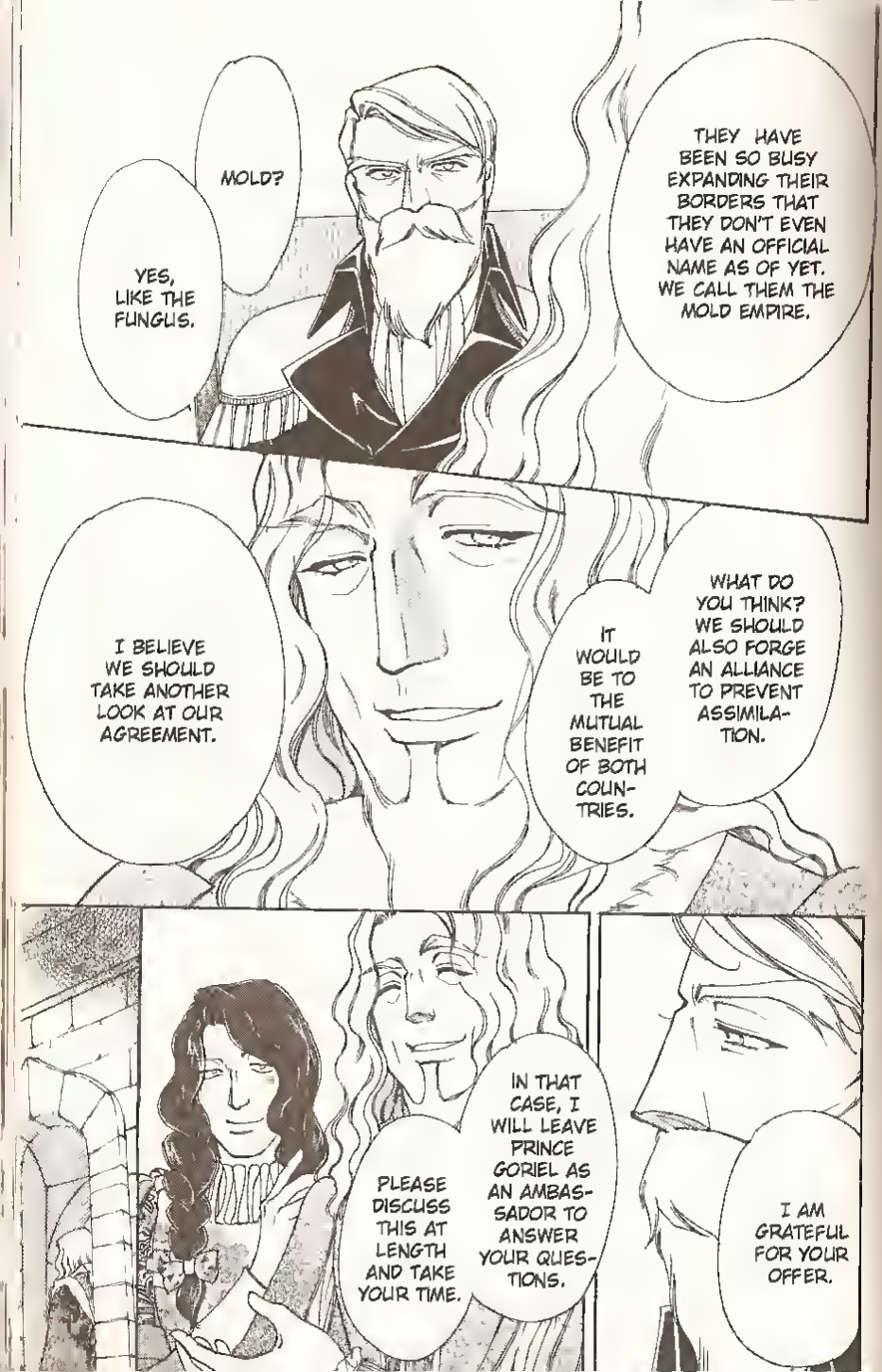
YOU'RE TOUGH!
HE GULPED THAT THING DOWN.
TAPP
THANK YOU.
gulp gulp gulp
HE'S NOT EVEN SHOWING IT.
COMPARED TO POISON ...
...ALCOHOL IS LIKE A WALK IN THE PARK TO MY MASTER.
I'LL POUR YOU ANOTHER DRINK POSS.
I THOUGHT HE WAS KIND OF COLD AND DISTANT BEFORE.
HE'S ACTUALLY A NORMAL GUY.
UH... NEVER MIND.
POISON?
SODA!
ONE DAY, I'M GONNA MAKE HIM ALL BETTER AND...
HE'S GOT PHYSICAL ISSUES THAT PREVENT HIM FROM GETTING CLOSE TO PEOPLE, BOTH BUSINESS AND PERSONAL.
MASTER HAS A REASON TO DISTANCE HIMSELF FROM PEOPLE.

Argent's Apothecary Shop
I FEEL SICK.
MY HEAD HURTS.
SERVES HIM RIGHT.
I WONDER IF HE'S EVER GOING TO MATURE.
knock knock
I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU MEDICATION.
TAKE THE DAY OFF AND LEARN THE LESSON OF MODERATION.
YES...
I TOLD YOU THAT ANYTHING IN EXCESS COULD BE POISONOUS.
HERE ARE THE THINGS YOU ASKED ME TO GET YOU IN SECRET.
IS THIS EVERYTHING?
CAN I TALK TO YOU BEFORE YOU OPEN SHOP?
GARNA!

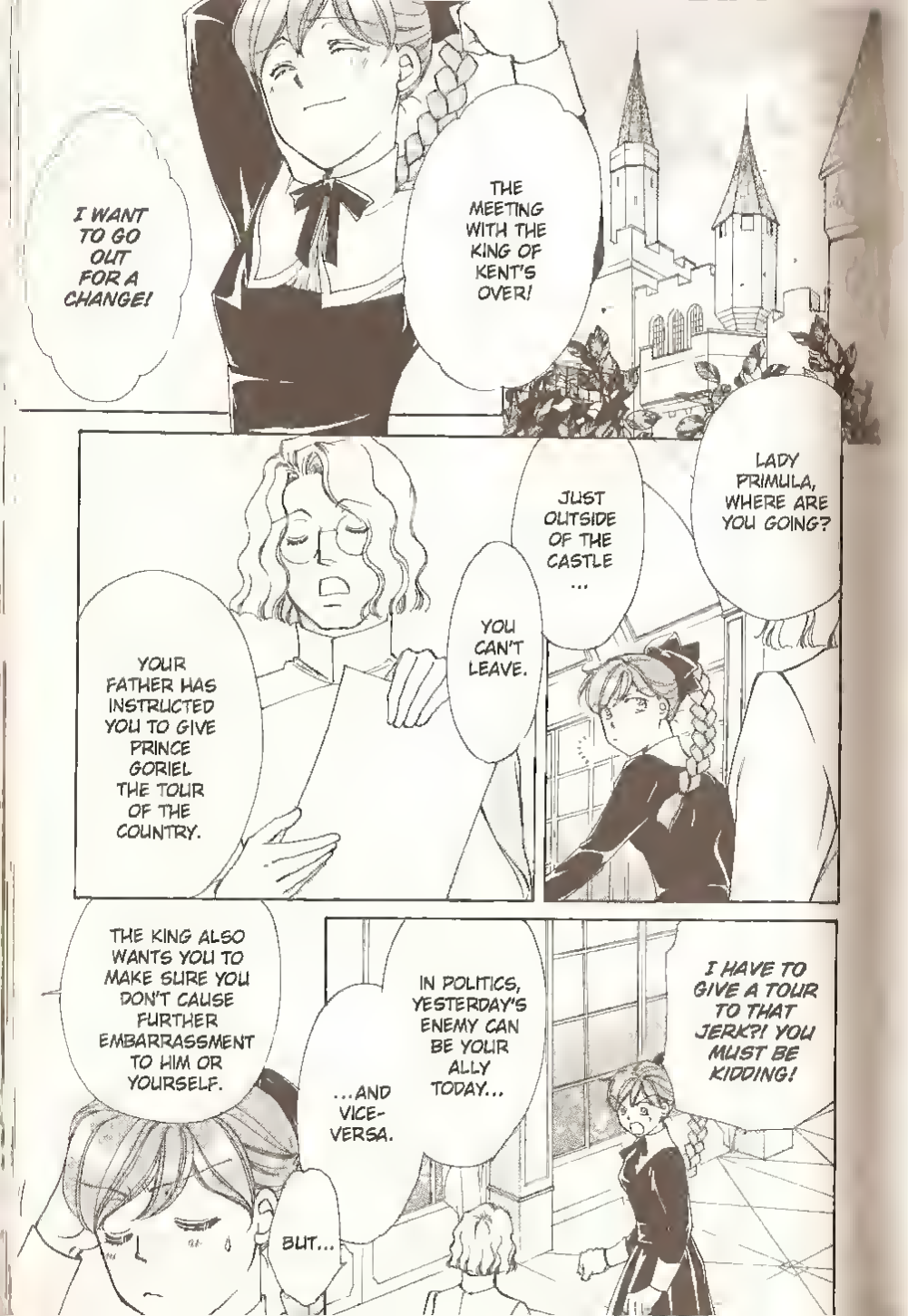
SO, WHO'S COMING?
THE KING OF KENT FROM THE SOUTHEAST.
PLEASE CALM DOWN, LADY PRIMULA. WE USED TO BE A SMALL FARMING KINGDOM...
...BUT JOINING FORCES WITH NAVARA HAS BROUGHT A LOT OF ATTENTION TO BEAZOL.
THERE WAS ONE JUST RECENTLY!
SIGH
YES, PRINCE GORIEL WILL ATTENDING ALONG WITH THE KING.
IS IT THAT JERK?
KENT... DIDN'T ONE OF THEM COME TO MY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION TO POSSIBLY ASK FOR MY HAND IN MARRIAGE?
I HAVEN'T SEEN ARGENT FOR A WHILE.
I WONDER HOW HE'S DOING.
THEREFORE, I HAVE TO DO A FITTING OF YOUR DRESS
THAT MEANS I CAN'T LEAVE THE CASTLE FOR A WHILE.

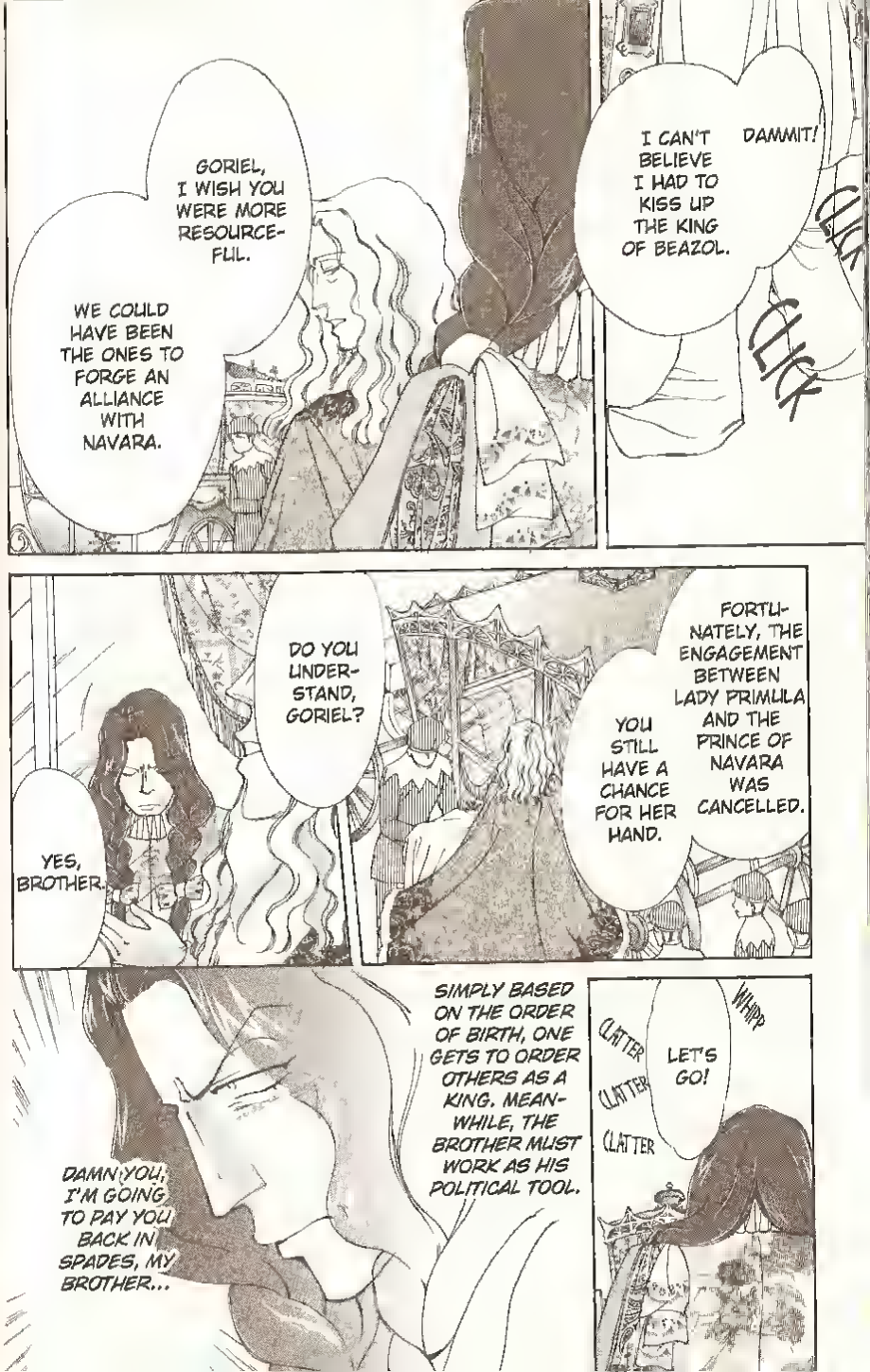

OH MY!
I DIDN'T KNOW THE "PRINCESS OF STEEL" WOULD BE SUCH AN ADORABLE YOUNG WOMAN!
THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE AN AMAZON!
IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN AND I APOLOGIZE FOR MY BEHAVIOR DURING OUR LAST MEETING.
"YOU'LL PAY FOR MY EMBARRASSMENT!"
"YOU'RE GOING TO STRIP NAKED!"
I'M SORRY TO HAVE FALLEN ILL DURING SUCH AN IMPORTANT TIME.
I WAS ABOUT TO CAUSE YOU IRREPARABLE HARM...
I'M GLAD YOU ARE WELL NOW.
"PRINCESS, YOU CANNOT! WHAT IF YOU TRANSMIT YOUR ILLNESS TO THE PRINCE!"
THANK YOU, PRINCE GORIEL. YOU LOOK EXTRAVAGANT TODAY.
IT'S AN HONOR TO GREET YOU ONCE AGAIN.

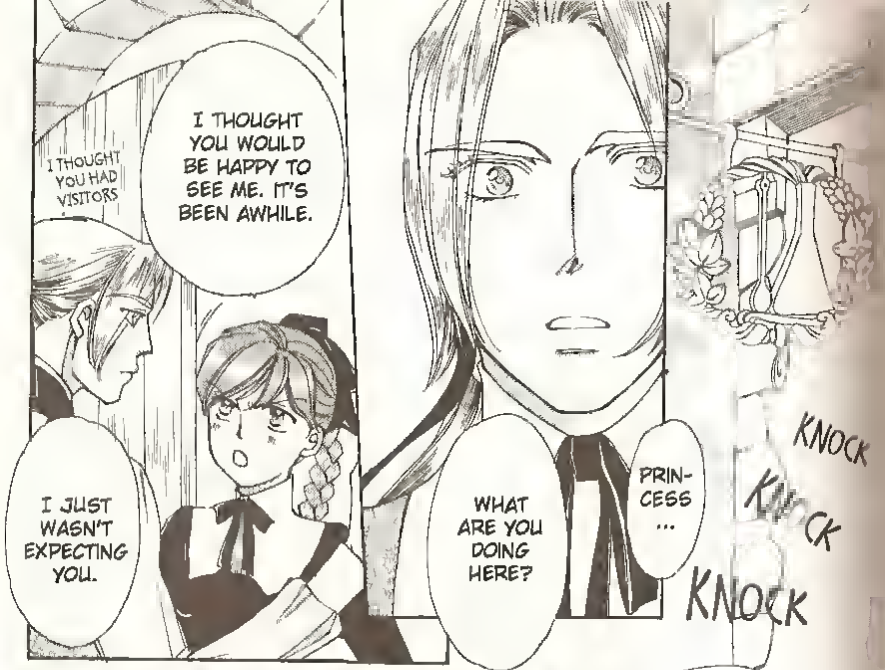
FOR THE MOST PART.
ARE YOU READY?
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN TURN MY BACK ON YOU NOW.
YES, THANK YOU. I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY AS THE ROYAL CHEF.
I WAS THINKING I WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO THEM.
HAVE YOU TOLD LADY PRIMULA AND SODA?
YOU JUST NEED TO FIND THE RIGHT TIME.
...THAT WILL BE LESS TROUBLE.
I'M SURE ...
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE KITCHEN. I'M SURE THE GUESTS WILL BE HERE SOON.
I UNDERSTAND.
PRINCE GORIEL FROM KENT IS COMING, SO THE PALACE IS BUSY GETTING READY.
YOU SHOULD DO IT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.


MOLD?
YES, LIKE THE FUNGUS.
THEY HAVE BEEN SO BUSY EXPANDING THEIR BORDERS THAT THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE AN OFFICIAL NAME AS OF YET. WE CALL THEM THE MOLD EMPIRE.
I BELIEVE WE SHOULD TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT OUR AGREEMENT.
IT WOULD BE TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF BOTH COUNTRIES.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? WE SHOULD ALSO FORGE AN ALLIANCE TO PREVENT ASSIMILATION.
PLEASE DISCUSS THIS AT LENGTH AND TAKE YOUR TIME.
IN THAT CASE, I WILL LEAVE PRINCE GORIEL AS AN AMBASSADOR TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.
I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OFFER.

YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR REPUTATION, YOUR MAJESTY.
YOU WERE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH IT WITHOUT BLOODSHED OF THE PEOPLE IN A SHORT TIME.
THE PEACE TREATY WITH NAVARA IS ABSOLUTELY SPLENDID.
I DON'T THINK IT'S UNSAVORY. MAKING A MOVE WHEN OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF IS A SIGN OF A SMART RULER.
HOWEVER, THERE ARE NOW UNSAVORY RUMORS THAT HE WAS ASSASSINATED BY MY ORDERS.
THE DEATH OF THE KING OF NAVARA HAPPENED AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME.
AS YOU KNOW, THEY'VE ASSIMILATED MANY SMALL COUNTRIES AND CHANGED THE FACE OF THE MAP IN THE LAST 10 YEARS.
THIS IS NOT TIME FOR PETTY ARGUMENTS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS. WE HAVE A POWERFUL COMMON ENEMY GROWING IN THE SOUTH.
HE'S THE KING OF A DISTINGUISHED COUNTRY.
HE'S IMPOSSIBLE TO READ, JUST LIKE MY FATHER.


I WANT TO GO OUT FOR A CHANGE!
THE MEETING WITH THE KING OF KENT'S OVER!
LADY PRIMULA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
JUST OUTSIDE OF THE CASTLE ...
YOU CAN'T LEAVE.
YOUR FATHER HAS INSTRUCTED YOU TO GIVE PRINCE GORIEL THE TOUR OF THE COUNTRY.
I HAVE TO GIVE A TOUR TO THAT JERK?! YOU MUST BE KIDDING!
IN POLITICS, YESTERDAY'S ENEMY CAN BE YOUR ALLY TODAY...
...AND VICE-VERSA.
THE KING ALSO WANTS YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T CAUSE FURTHER EMBARRASSMENT TO HIM OR YOURSELF.
BUT...


GORIEL, I WISH YOU WERE MORE RESOURCE-FUL.
WE COULD HAVE BEEN THE ONES TO FORGE AN ALLIANCE WITH NAVARA.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAD TO KISS UP THE KING OF BEAZOL.
DAMMIT!
CLICK
CLICK
DO YOU UNDER-STAND, GORIEL?
YES, BROTHER.
YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE FOR HER HAND.
FORTU-NATELY, THE ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN LADY PRIMULA AND THE PRINCE OF NAVARA WAS CANCELLED.
SIMPLY BASED ON THE ORDER OF BIRTH, ONE GETS TO ORDER OTHERS AS A KING. MEAN-WHILE, THE BROTHER MUST WORK AS HIS POLITICAL TOOL.
DAMN YOU, I'M GOING TO PAY YOU BACK IN SPADES, MY BROTHER...
WHIPP
LET'S GO!
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER

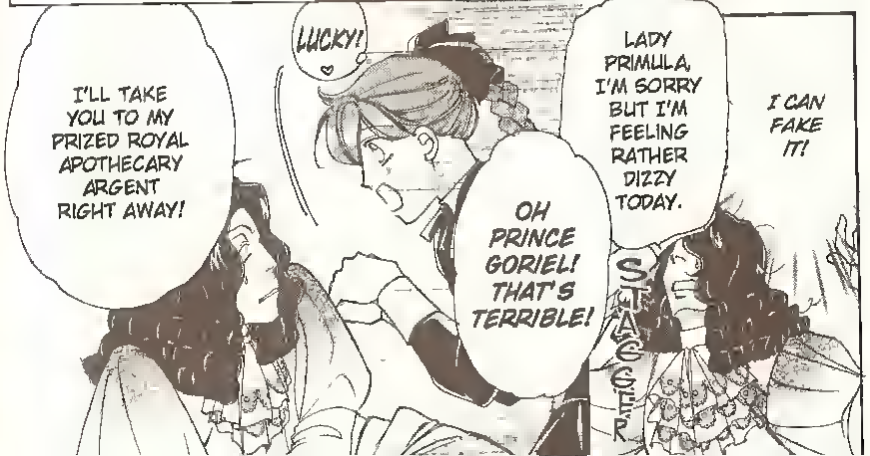

I THOUGHT YOU HAD VISITORS
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE ME. IT'S BEEN AWHILE.
I JUST WASN'T EXPECTING YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
PRIN-CESS ...
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

UH
YES, I'M HERE WITH PRINCE GORIEL.

WHY? HE'S FAKING IT.
SODA, BRING ME MEDICINE.
I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE ...
I THINK I'M TERMINALLY ILL....
PRINCESS PLEASE HOLD MY HAND
WHISPER
IT'S ALL RIGHT. BRING HIM SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HELP.
HE SEEMS TO BE ALL RIGHT.

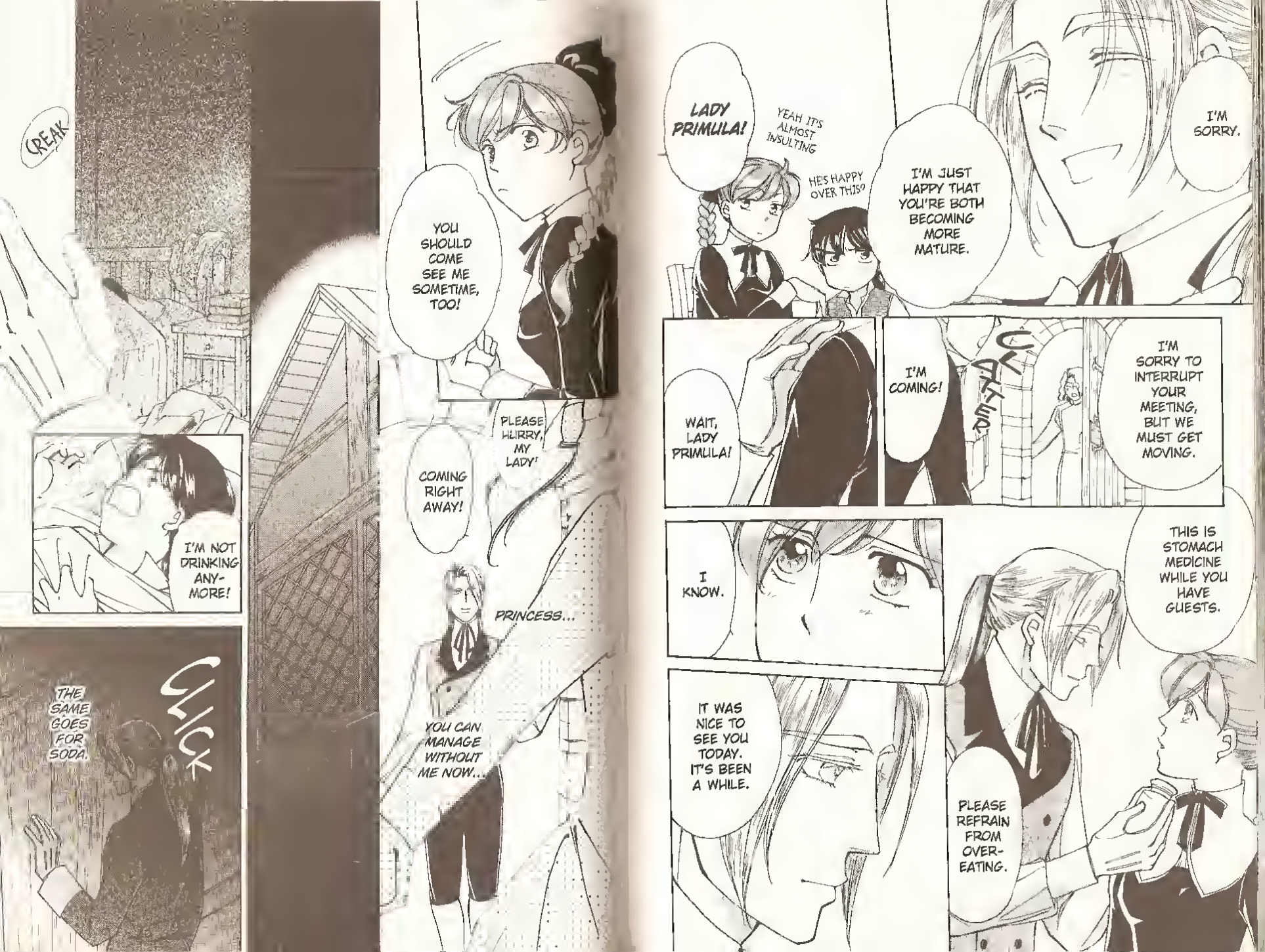
PRINCE GORIEL, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
CUSTOMER SERVICE SMILE
FLUTTER FLUTTER FLUTTER
Beazol Tour Guide
I HEARD YOU WANTED A TOUR OF THE COUNTRY. DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC LOCATIONS IN MIND?
GOOD MORNING, PRINCE GORIEL.

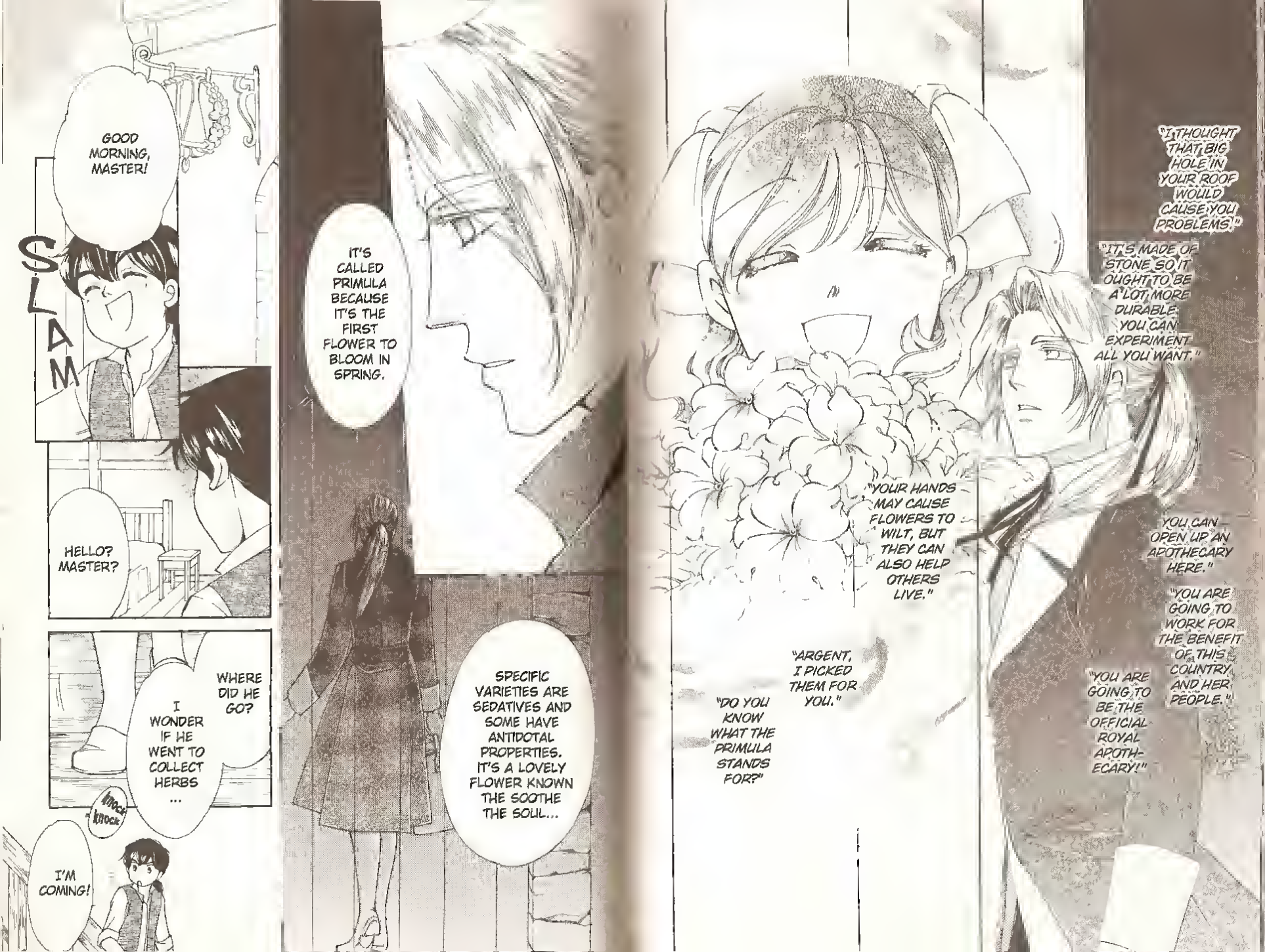
I HEAR THE PRINCE OF NAVARA CAPTURED HER HEART WHILE HE WAS RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS IN BEAZOL.
I NEED TO MAKE HER MINE. SHE'S KIND TO THOSE SHE PERCEIVES AS WEAK...

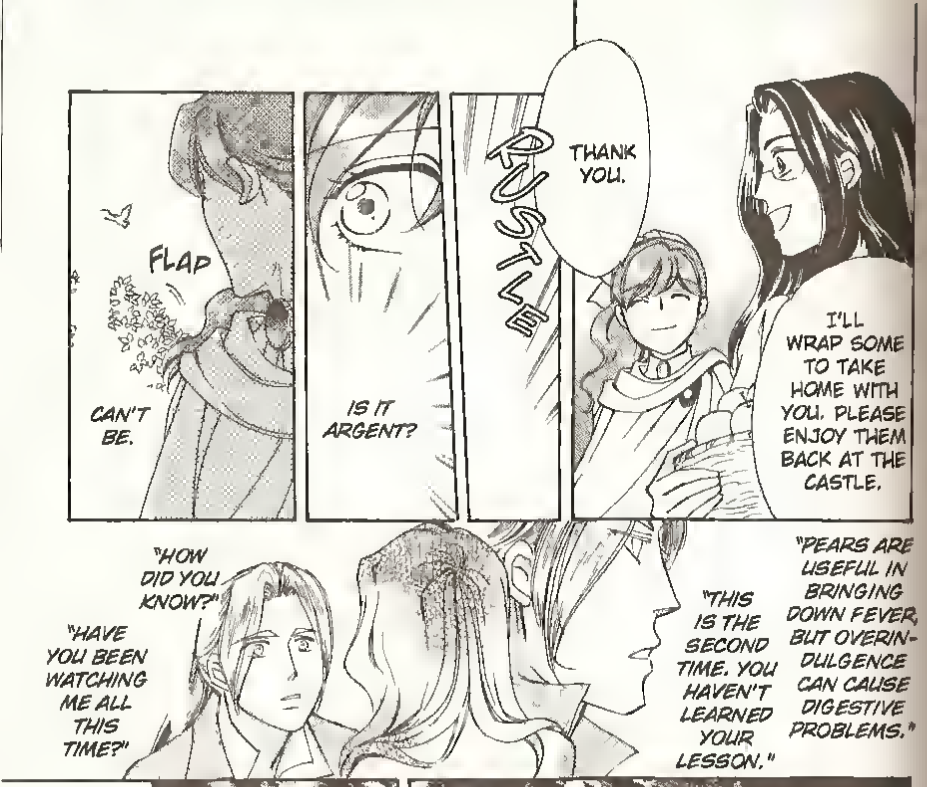

I'LL TAKE YOU TO MY PRIZED ROYAL APOTHECARY ARGENT RIGHT AWAY!
LUCKY!
OH PRINCE GORIEL! THAT'S TERRIBLE!
LADY PRIMULA, I'M SORRY BUT I'M FEELING RATHER DIZZY TODAY.
I CAN FAKE IT!
STAGGER

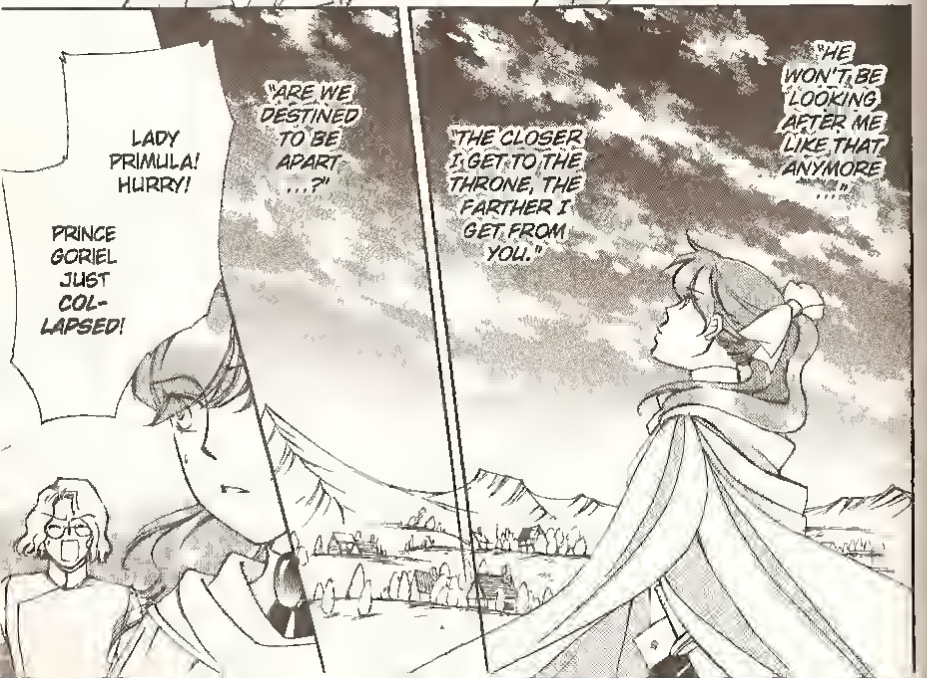
I WASN'T SURE WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.
...
...
CARLI, PLEASE SEND HIM BACK TO THE PALACE TO GET CLEANED UP!
I'M SORRY, I STAINED YOUR CLOTHES!
SODA, WHAT DID YOU GIVE HIM?
IT WAS A HAIR GROWING TONIC THAT WAS MADE FROM THE BLISTER BEETLE.
YOU HAVE TO GREET EVERYONE WITH A SMILE. IT'S THE KEY TO DIPLOMACY.
THAT MEDICINE WAS REALLY BITTER, THOUGH.
YOU DID A GOOD JOB, MY LADY! YOU WOULD HAVE SLAPPED HIM BEFORE.
I GAVE HIM WHAT I THOUGHT WOULD HELP...
I COULDN'T POISON THE GUY, RIGHT?
HAHA HAHA HAHA!
HAIR GROWING TONIC ...?

HERE YOU GO, MY LADY. IT'S THE PRINCE'S MEDICINE.
SURE, I'D LOVE TO.
...PLEASE ADMINISTER IT VIA MOUTH TO MOUTH...
MY LADY ...
SMOOCH
I'M SORRY, PRINCE GORIEL.
THE MEDICATION WAS UNUSUALLY BITTER.
GYAAAAH!
DROOOOL

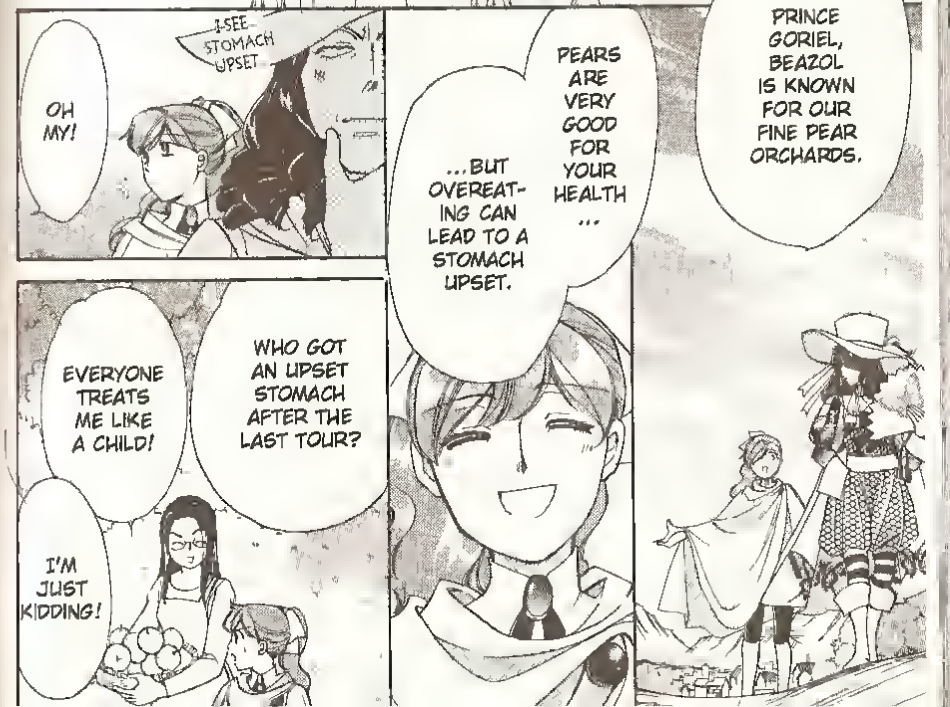

I'M SORRY.
I'M JUST HAPPY THAT YOU'RE BOTH BECOMING MORE MATURE.
LADY PRIMULA!
YEAH IT'S ALMOST INSULTING
HE'S HAPPY OVER THIS?
I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR MEETING, BUT WE MUST GET MOVING.
I'M COMING!
WAIT, LADY PRIMULA!
THIS IS STOMACH MEDICINE WHILE YOU HAVE GUESTS.
I KNOW.
IT WAS NICE TO SEE YOU TODAY. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM OVER-EATING.
YOU SHOULD COME SEE ME SOMETIME, TOO!
PLEASE HURRY, MY LADY!
COMING RIGHT AWAY!
PRINCESS...
YOU CAN MANAGE WITHOUT ME NOW...
CREAK
I'M NOT DRINKING ANY-MORE!
CLICK
THE SAME GOES FOR SODA.


GOOD MORNING, MASTER!
SLAM
HELLO? MASTER?
WHERE DID HE GO?
I WONDER IF HE WENT TO COLLECT HERBS ...
knock knock
I'M COMING!
IT'S CALLED PRIMULA BECAUSE IT'S THE FIRST FLOWER TO BLOOM IN SPRING.
SPECIFIC VARIETIES ARE SEDATIVES AND SOME HAVE ANTIDOTAL PROPERTIES. IT'S A LOVELY FLOWER KNOWN THE SOOTHE THE SOUL...
"I THOUGHT THAT BIG HOLE IN YOUR ROOF WOULD CAUSE YOU PROBLEMS!"
"IT'S MADE OF STONE SO IT OUGHT TO BE A LOT MORE DURABLE. YOU CAN EXPERIMENT ALL YOU WANT."
"YOUR HANDS MAY CAUSE FLOWERS TO WILT, BUT THEY CAN ALSO HELP OTHERS LIVE."
YOU CAN OPEN UP AN APOTHECARY HERE."
"YOU ARE GOING TO WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THIS COUNTRY AND HER PEOPLE."
"ARGENT, I PICKED THEM FOR YOU."
"DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE PRIMULA STANDS FOR?"
"YOU ARE GOING TO BE THE OFFICIAL ROYAL APOTH-ECARY!"


FLAP
CAN'T BE.
IS IT ARGENT?
RUSTLE
THANK YOU.
I'LL WRAP SOME TO TAKE HOME WITH YOU. PLEASE ENJOY THEM BACK AT THE CASTLE.
"HOW DID YOU KNOW?"
"HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING ME ALL THIS TIME?"
"THIS IS THE SECOND TIME. YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED YOUR LESSON."
"PEARS ARE USEFUL IN BRINGING DOWN FEVER, BUT OVERINDULGENCE CAN CAUSE DIGESTIVE PROBLEMS."

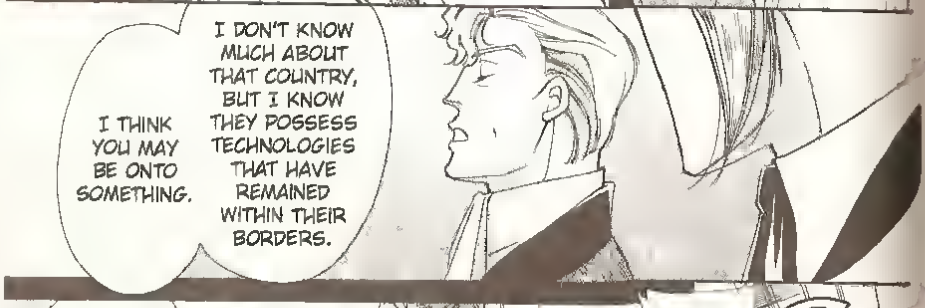

LADY PRIMULA! HURRY!
PRINCE GORIEL JUST COLLAPSED!
"ARE WE DESTINED TO BE APART...?"
"THE CLOSER I GET TO THE THRONE, THE FARTHER I GET FROM YOU."
"HE WON'T BE LOOKING AFTER ME LIKE THAT ANYMORE..."

CLACK
BOSS ZANTAK, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE SO EARLY?
Dear Mr. Zantak
THIS WAS ON MY DOORSTEP WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING.


PRINCE GORIEL, BEAZOL IS KNOWN FOR OUR FINE PEAR ORCHARDS.
PEARS ARE VERY GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH...
...BUT OVEREATING CAN LEAD TO A STOMACH UPSET.
I SEE. STOMACH UPSET
OH MY!
WHO GOT AN UPSET STOMACH AFTER THE LAST TOUR?
EVERYONE TREATS ME LIKE A CHILD!
I'M JUST KIDDING!

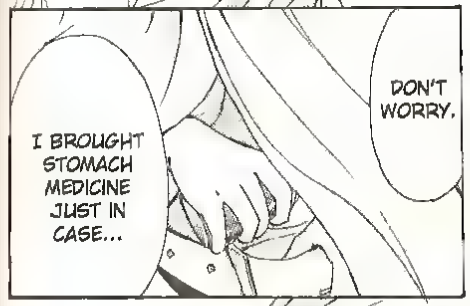
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE UP YOUR MIND TO GO TO CASTORIA.
THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME OFF.
I MUST LEAVE THE COUNTRY TO PURSUE A SELFISH DREAM. PLEASE TAKE CARE AN BECOME A WONDERFUL RULER

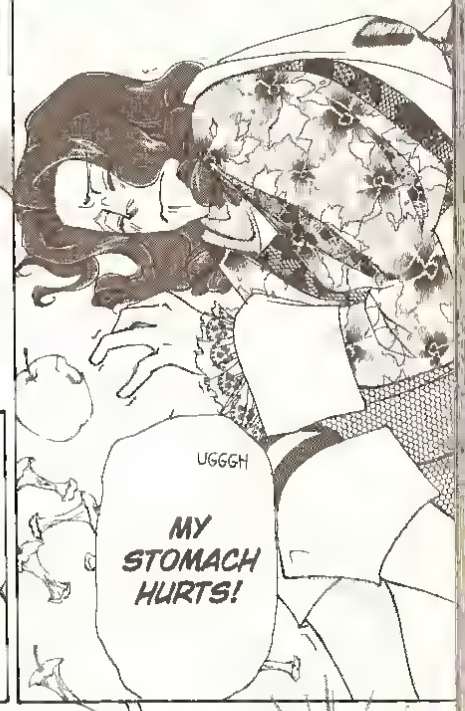
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE TRUTH, BUT IF THERE'S A WAY TO DETOXIFY MYSELF IN CASTORIA, THEN I NEED TO GO FIND OUT FOR MYSELF.
YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE TELLING ME THAT, ALMOST.
YOU TOLD ME TO ACT IN A WAY TO PREVENT REGRETS.

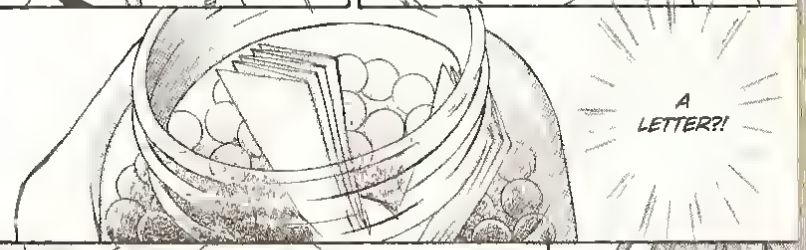

I THINK YOU MAY BE ONTO SOMETHING.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THAT COUNTRY, BUT I KNOW THEY POSSESS TECHNOLOGIES THAT HAVE REMAINED WITHIN THEIR BORDERS.

HE'S GONE ALREADY.
WHERE'S... WHERE'S ARGENT?!
SODA!
SLAM

WAVER
HE'S DOING THIS ON PURPOSE.


I BROUGHT STOMACH MEDICINE JUST IN CASE...
DON'T WORRY.


UGGGH
MY STOMACH HURTS!


A LETTER?!

DEAR LADY PRIMULA,
MY ROLE IN BEAZOL HAS COME TO AN END.
WHAT? LADY PRIMULA, WAIT!
EXCUSE ME. I HAVE TO RETURN TO THE CASTLE.
CARLI, PLEASE ARRANGE ASSISTANCE FOR PRINCE GORIEL!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE LEAVING THE COUNTRY?
I'M GOING TO CASTORIA.
YOU'RE QUICK, MY LADY...
THERE'S A STONE THAT CAN DETOXIFY A BASILISK.
PRINCE LORCA GAVE ME INFORMATION IN NAVARA.
CASTORIA? TO THE EAST? WHY?!
I'M NOT SURE IF THE INFORMATION I HAVE IS TRUE. BESIDES ...
NO, CASTORIA IS MUCH FARTHER AWAY THAN NAVARA.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME? I WOULD HAVE GONE WITH YOU.
THAT BOOK...

ARGENT, WHY?
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN BY MY SIDE ...
HE LEFT ME ALL HIS RECIPES AND A LETTER THAT SODA HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED HIS APPRENTICESHIP.
WHY?!
ARGENT!
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP

WHY?!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO GO INTO ENEMY TERRITORY!
I ALSO PLAN ON TRAVELING THROUGH BORDERING COUNTRIES AND EVENTUALLY MAKE MY WAY SOUTH.
THE KING WILL NEVER ALLOW IT.
I'LL GET PERMISSION FROM MY FATHER. WAIT HERE!
YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO LEAVE.
THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TIME FOR YOUR COUNTRY.
I BELIEVE BEAZOL IS WELL PROTECTED.
THE LADY HAS MANY LOYAL AND TRUSTWORTHY PEOPLE IN HER LIFE. THE PEOPLE HAVE COME TO LOVE HER.
WHAT BEAZOL IS LACKING NOW IS INFORMATION FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.
I WOULD LIKE TO STOP THEM.
THAT EMPIRE IS USING PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY TO TAKE OVER OTHER COUNTRIES WITHOUT WAGING WAR.
HE'S RIGHT.
CRUNCH
FATHER!
YOU COULD PASS INTO ENEMY HANDS AND BECOME A TRAITOR.
YOU ARE VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE YOU'RE A BASILISK.
ARGENT, AS LONG AS YOU'RE THE ROYAL APOTHECARY, YOU'RE UNDER MY ORDERS.
LEAVING FOR CASTORIA IS ONLY ONE OF MY REASONS.
I HAVE A GOOD REASON.
ARGENT, HOW DARE YOU LEAVE THE COUNTRY DURING AN IMPORTANT TIME LIKE THIS!
I'M ALWAYS AWARE OF MY SUBJECTS' MOVEMENTS.

YOU DIDN'T DEFEND YOURSELF.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I CAN'T USE YOU ANYMORE.
YOU CAN LEAVE IF YOU WANT!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE, DON'T RUN OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. TAKE CARE OF ALL YOUR AFFAIRS FIRST.
HOWEVER, YOU'RE NEVER WELCOME IN THIS COUNTRY AGAIN.

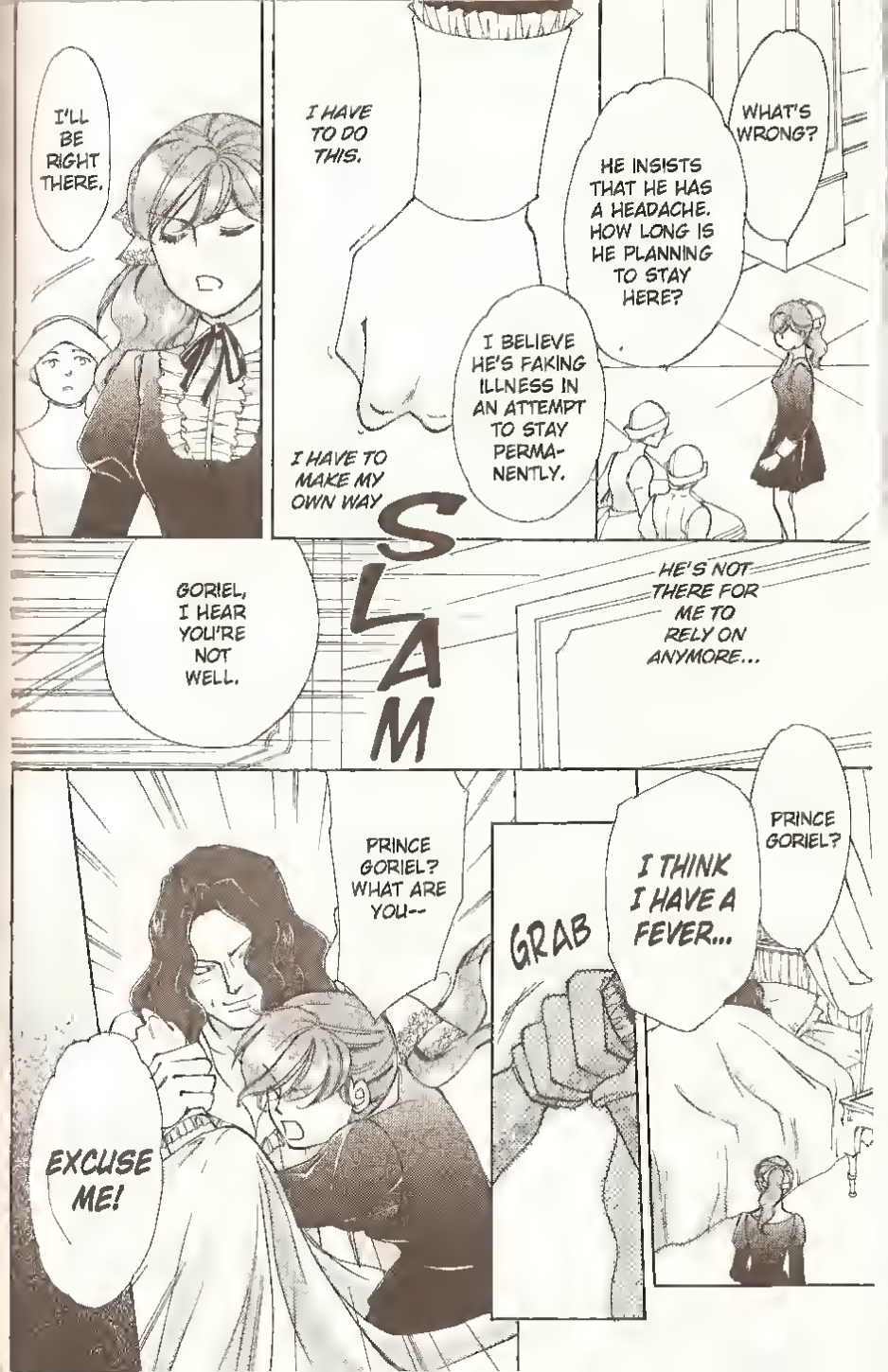
IF YOU TURN AGAINST ME, I'LL KILL YOU!
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU...
GRAB
IF THAT IS TO HAPPEN, I'LL KILL MYSELF FIRST.
FATHER!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE AGAINST MY WILL...
SHOVE
STAB
...YOU'RE A TRAITOR ALREADY!

...WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO SAY GOODBYE.
I FINALLY GET TO HEAR WHAT'S IN YOUR HEART...
THAT TIME HAS PASSED.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GET CLOSE TO YOU SINCE THE DAY WE MET.
I WANTED TO HAVE YOU CLOSE BY LIKE A TREASURE BECAUSE I FELT PITY FOR YOUR FATE.
YOU MAY GO. YOU ARE NOW FREE.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT I'VE BEEN A BURDEN TO YOU.
I WOULD HAVE NEVER MET YOU UNLESS I WAS A BASILISK.
I WAS ALSO ALLOWED TO LIVE A NEW LIFE AS A HEALER.
EVEN IF I GET CHASED OUT OF THE COUNTRY, I WANT TO BE ABLE TO GET CLOSE TO YOU.
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO FEEL LIFE... AND NOT JUST YOURS.
I'VE FELT THAT WAY FOR A LONG TIME.
IT'S BEEN GETTING STRONGER EVERY DAY FOR SOME TIME.
MY LADY, PLEASE FORGIVE MY SELFISH DESIRES.

SO YOU LET HIM GO?
I ALSO HAVE WORK TO DO.
THE PRINCESS WON'T SEE YOU OFF. SHE HAS MATTERS TO ATTEND TO.
YES...
ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THAT?
THAT MEANS YOU MUST PROTECT YOURSELF.
HE WAS VERY GOOD AT PROTECTING YOU, YET YOU LET HIM GO.
PLEASE EXCUSE MY SELFISH ACT.
LADY PRIMULA! PRINCE GORIEL IS SICK AGAIN!
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'M GOING TO LAST, EITHER...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR THE SUDDEN DEPARTURE. IT'S AN URGENT MATTER...
I'M LEAVING MY PATIENT AND THE STORE UNDER YOUR DIRECTION.
IT'S REALLY TOO BAD. WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO MAKE AMENDS. I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN FILL YOUR SHOES, ARGENT.
...ABANDONING YOUR APPRENTICE.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, SODA WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER THEM.
YOU'RE A SKILLED MAN.
GARNA...
ARGENT.
YOU'RE NOT MY TEACHER! YOU'RE NOTHING TO ME!!!
...ABANDONING YOUR APPRENTICE.
YOU'RE LEAVING THE STORE AND ...

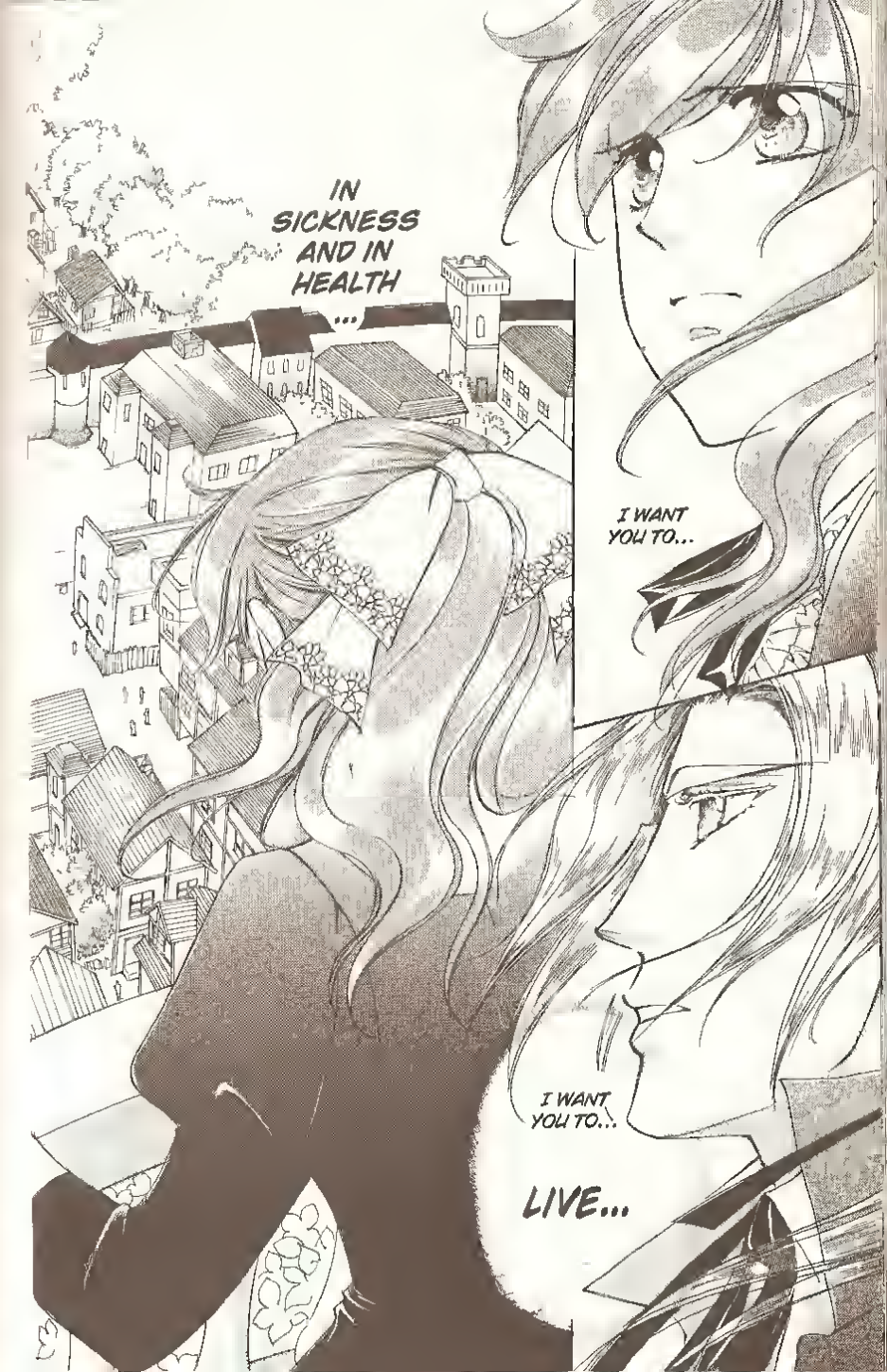
WE SENT FOR THIS GRUB PICKLE FROM NAVARA JUST FOR YOU!
IT'S VERY NUTRITIOUS. IT WILL HELP REBUILD YOUR VITALITY!
PRINCE GORIEL, I HAVE A SPECIAL MEAL TO HELP YOU RECOVER FROM YOUR ILLNESS.
IT'S THE PRINCESS' FAVORITE. PLEASE EAT UP!
SAY AAAAH!
GRUB, AS IN BUGS?
WE'RE HERE!
I'M... NOT HUNGRY!
SEND FOR AN APOTHECARY, JUST NOT THE SILVER APOTHECARY!
SLAM
OH MY GOOD-NESS!
UH POSS
IT LOOKS LIKE OUR WATER IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH YOUR CONSTITUTION. YOU MUST RETURN HOME RIGHT AWAY!
I'M ZANTAK, THE NEW ROYAL APOTH-ECARY!
TA-DAAAA! AT YOUR SERVICE, DEAR PRINCE!

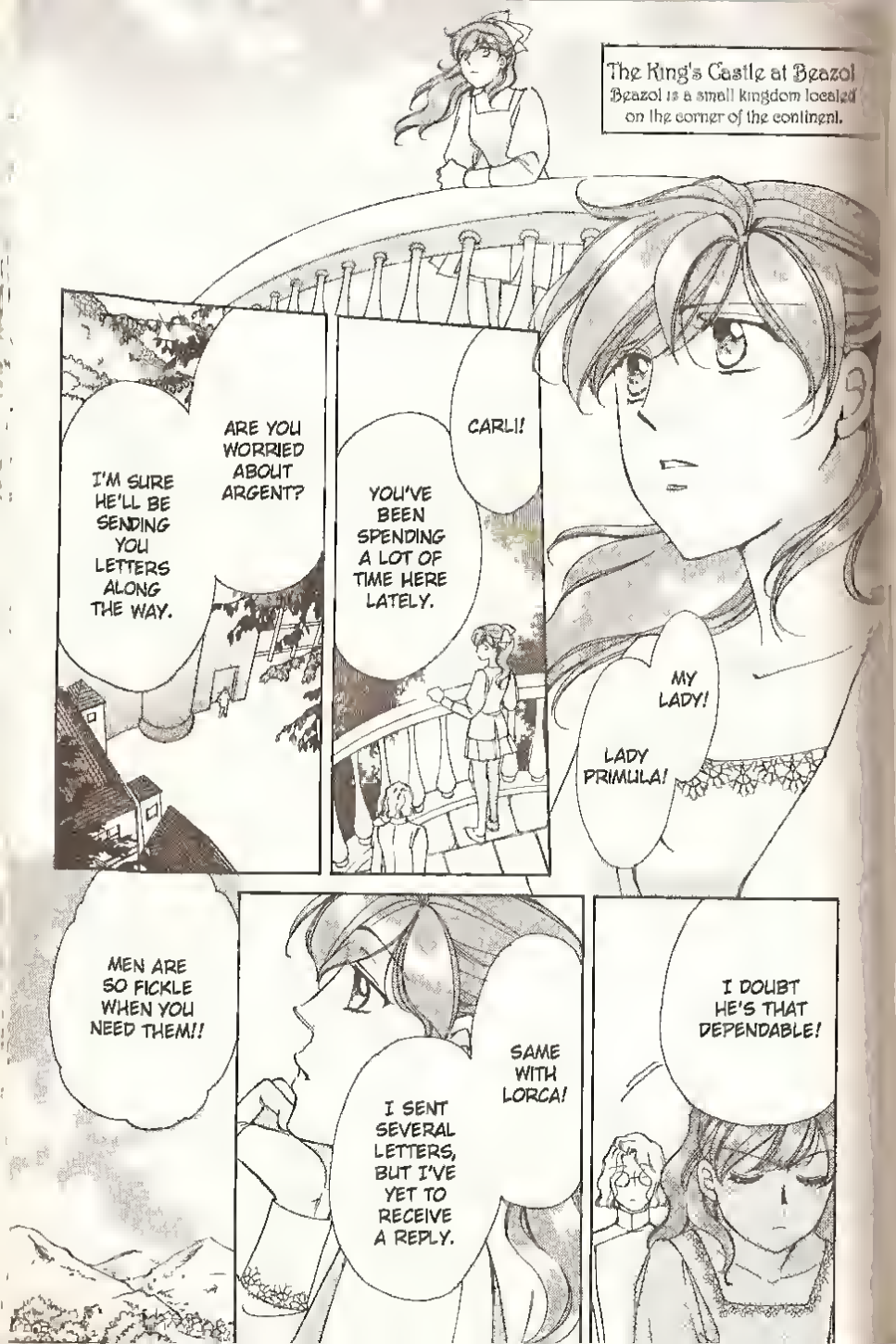

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
I HAVE TO DO THIS.
HE INSISTS THAT HE HAS A HEADACHE. HOW LONG IS HE PLANNING TO STAY HERE?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I BELIEVE HE'S FAKING ILLNESS IN AN ATTEMPT TO STAY PERMA-NENTLY.
I HAVE TO MAKE MY OWN WAY
SLAM
GORIEL, I HEAR YOU'RE NOT WELL.
HE'S NOT THERE FOR ME TO RELY ON ANYMORE...
PRINCE GORIEL? WHAT ARE YOU--
GRAB
I THINK I HAVE A FEVER...
PRINCE GORIEL?
EXCUSE ME!

Ar
ARGENT!
NOW THAT I'VE LEFT THE COUNTRY, I UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH YOU HAVE PROTECTED ME.
I MAY NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN, BUT...
...I HAVE TO DO THIS.
ARGENT...
YOU WERE ALWAYS THERE TO PROTECT ME.
NOW, IT'S MY TIME TO LET YOU LIVE...
I MUST BE HEARING THINGS...

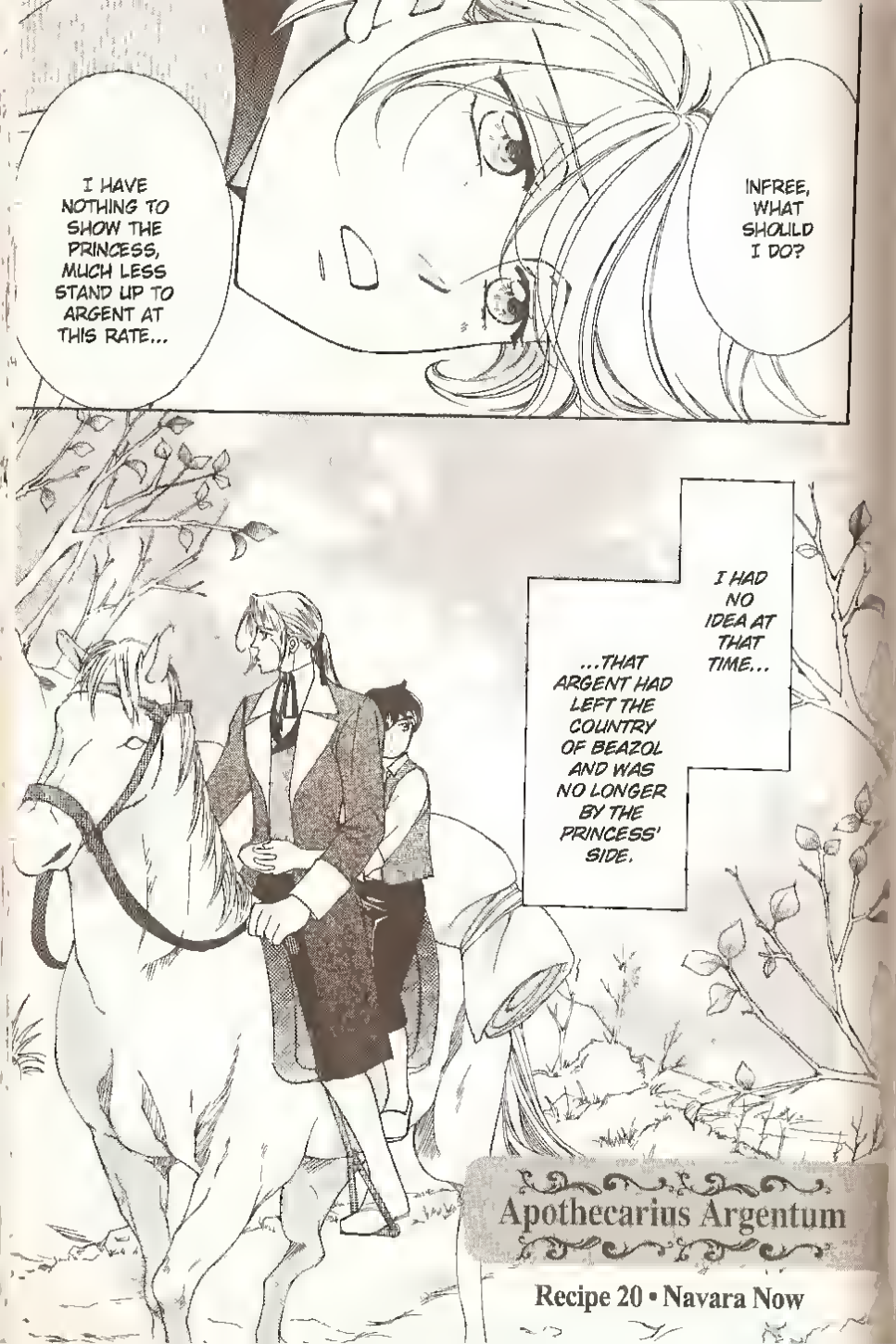
QUICK
QUICK
B.. BUT...
...YOU MUST GET READY!
PRINCE GORIEL...
EVERY-ONE ...
WE CAN DO WITHOUT HIM.
CLAP CLAP
EVERYONE, PLEASE PACK FOR PRINCE GORIEL RIGHT AWAY!
!
YOU MAY STILL BE ABLE TO SEE HIM FROM THE TOWER. GO AHEAD, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
WAIT!
ARGENT!
GARNA, THANK YOU!!

SODA?!
MASTER, WAIT!
I'M COMING WITH YOU!
Erm...
I THOUGHT I WASN'T TEACHING ANYTHING TO YOU ANYMORE?
I TOLD YOU I'D FIX YOU ONE DAY, DAMMIT! DON'T YOUR REMEMBER?
I'M NOT GOING AS YOUR ASSISTANT! I'M GOING AS AN APOTH-ECARY!
OF COURSE I DO.


IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH ...
I WANT YOU TO...
I WANT YOU TO...
LIVE...


The King's Castle at Beazol
Beazol is a small kingdom located on the corner of the continent.
I'M SURE HE'LL BE SENDING YOU LETTERS ALONG THE WAY.
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ARGENT?
YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME HERE LATELY.
CARL!
MY LADY!
LADY PRIMULA!
MEN ARE SO FICKLE WHEN YOU NEED THEM!!
I SENT SEVERAL LETTERS, BUT I'VE YET TO RECEIVE A REPLY.
SAME WITH LORCA!
I DOUBT HE'S THAT DEPENDABLE!

Southern Empire...
HOP ON BACK HERE.
GREAT!
SHALL WE SEND CORDA?
NO, I'LL SEND CORDA ELSE-WHERE.
ARE YOU READY?
YES, HE SERVED AS THE ROYAL APOTHECARY.
THAT'S A MAJOR OBSTACLE. HOW IRONIC... AN ASSASSIN WORKING AS A HEALER...
KENT AND BEAZOL ARE FORMING AN ALLIANCE?
YES.
THE WEAK WILL BAND TOGETHER. ACCORDING TO INFREE, THERE WAS ALSO A BASILISK IN BEAZOL.
AS YOU WISH...
Recipe 13 "The End"


I HAVE NOTHING TO SHOW THE PRINCESS, MUCH LESS STAND UP TO ARGENT AT THIS RATE...
INFREE, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
...THAT ARGENT HAD LEFT THE COUNTRY OF BEAZOL AND WAS NO LONGER BY THE PRINCESS' SIDE.
I HAD NO IDEA AT THAT TIME...

Apothecarius Argentum

Recipe 20 • Navara Now

DEAR PRINCESS PRIMULA OF BEAZOL,
THIS IS PRINCE LORCA OF NAVARA.
I HAVE NOT WRITTEN SINCE THE PEACE TREATY BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. I HOPE YOU ARE DOING WELL.
MY BROTHER ADONA HAS TAKEN THE THRONE. ASSISTANCE FROM YOUR COUNTRY HAS POURED IN, AND THE COUNTRY IS ON ITS WAY TO RECOVERY. WE HOPE TO RESTORE OUR FORMER GLORY SOON.
MY WORK USING INSECTS AS DYE MATERIAL IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY.
I AM CONFIDENT THAT I CAN MEET THE AGREEMENT I SET WITH YOUR FATHER AND HAVE YOUR HAND IN MARRIAGE SOON...
SCRUNCH
I'M A LIAR, PRIMULA.
THINGS ARE NOT PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY AT ALL.
RUSTLE
DAMMIT!

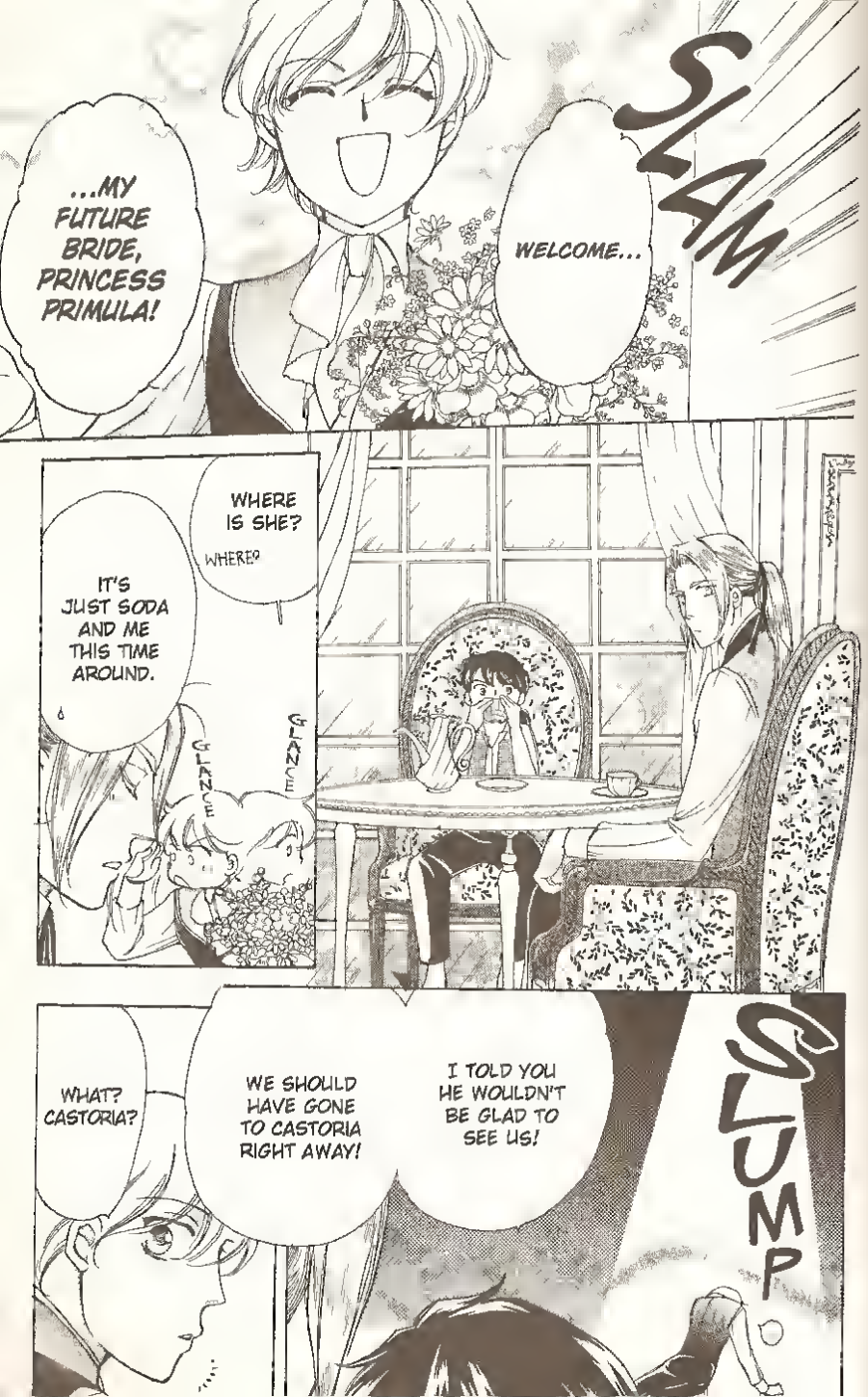
HOW DARE YOU! WHO DO YOU THINK--
LATER, KIDDO!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, TOKLES.
PEOPLE DON'T REALLY KNOW MY FACE.
YOU MAY THINK SO ...
IT COULD BE IRRITATING TO THE SKIN.
DROP
WHAT? BUGS?
DON'T WORRY, IT'S COMPLETELY HARMLESS.

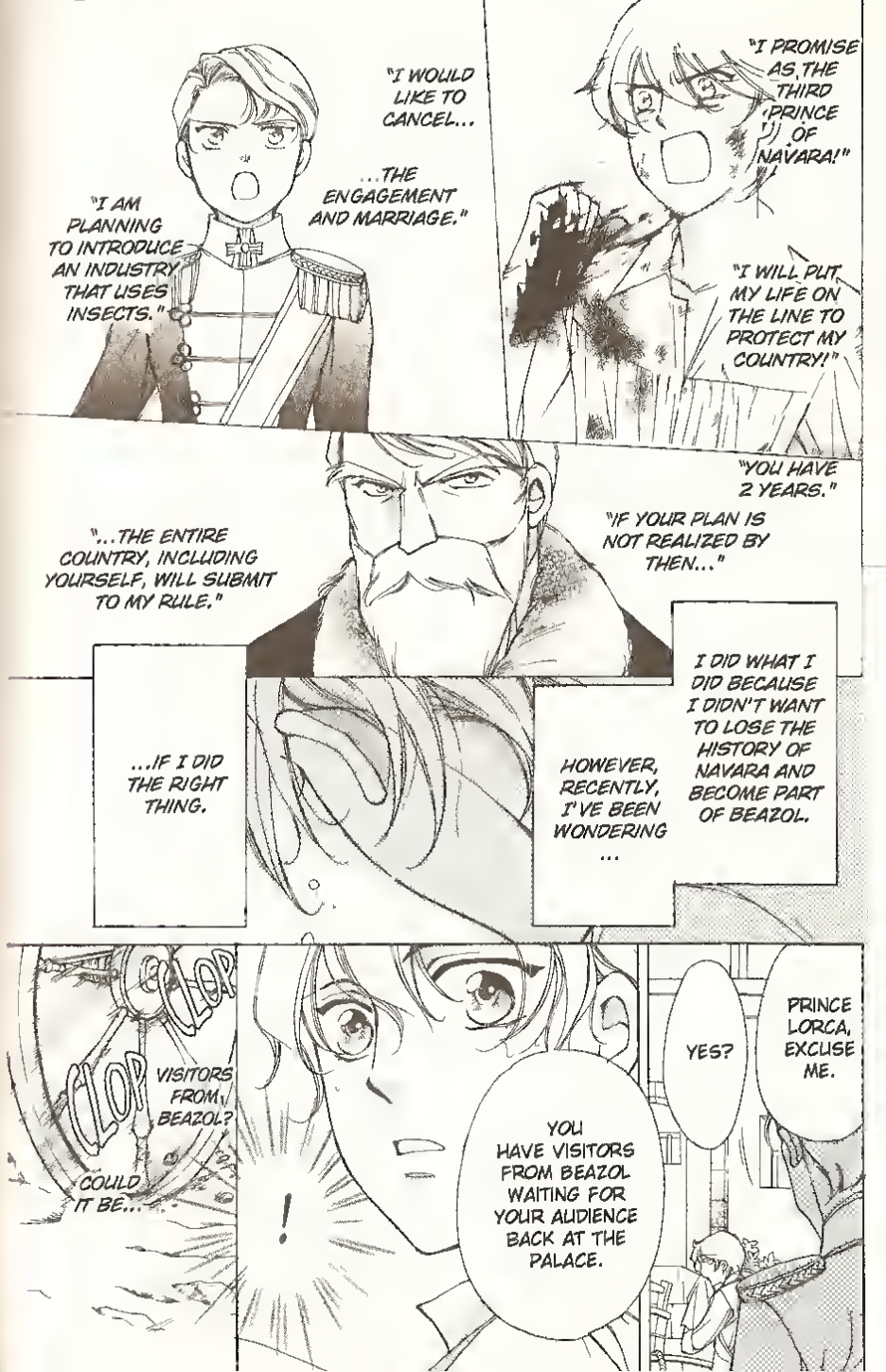
PRINCE LORCA MAY LOVE BUGS, BUT MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE SQUEA-MISH...
ESPECIALLY KIDS AND WOMEN
IT'S MADE FROM BUGS.
BUT PRINCE LORCA ...!

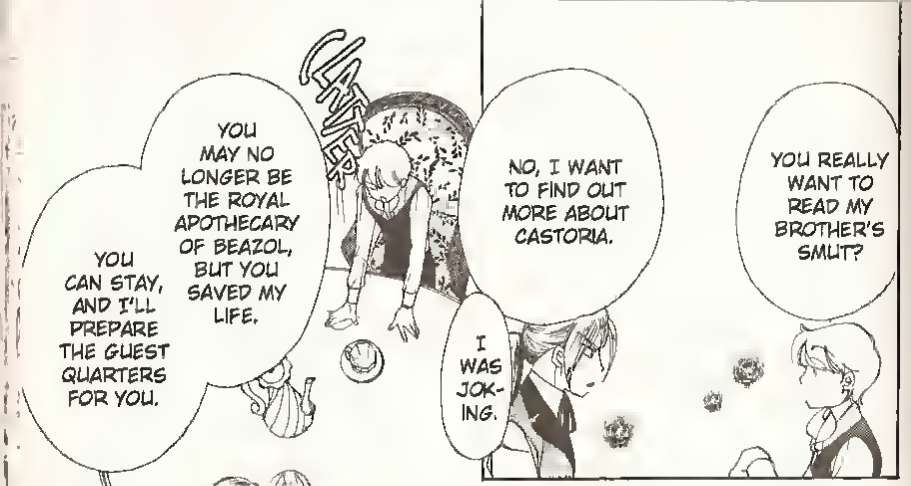
I MADE A PROMISE TO THE KING OF BEAZOL AND THE PEOPLE OF NAVARA...
...IN ORDER TO KEEP MY COUNTRY FROM RUIN...
SPLASH
SPLASH
I'M GOING TO GO WASH MY FACE.
I WONDER IF WE CAN MAKE AN INDUSTRY OUT OF THIS.
IS IT GOING TO END UP AS A ROYAL HOBBY ...?
SMH

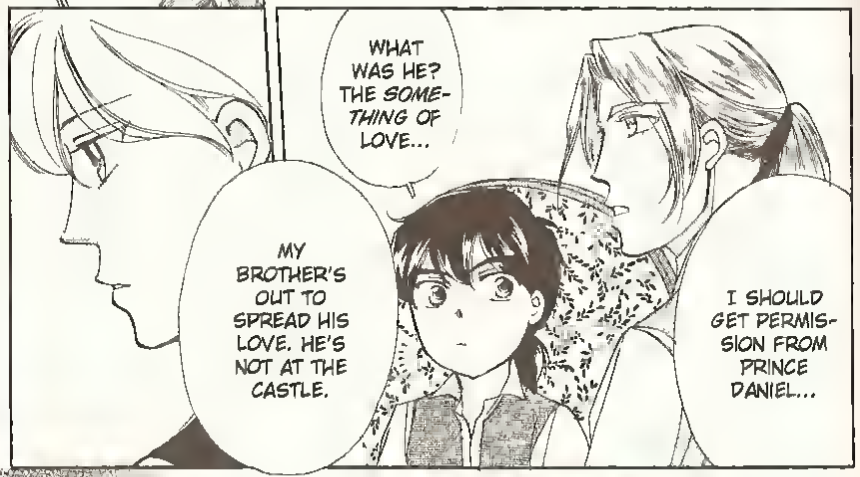
UHM...
THIS ISN'T THE WAY TO CASTORIA, MASTER...
WE'RE DROPPING BY NAVARA FIRST.
NAH, I WAS JUST FEELING A LITTLE NOSTALGIC.
BEAZOL'S LOOKING FAR AWAY NOW...
SODA, YOU STILL CAN TURN BACK IF YOU WANT.
NAVARA?

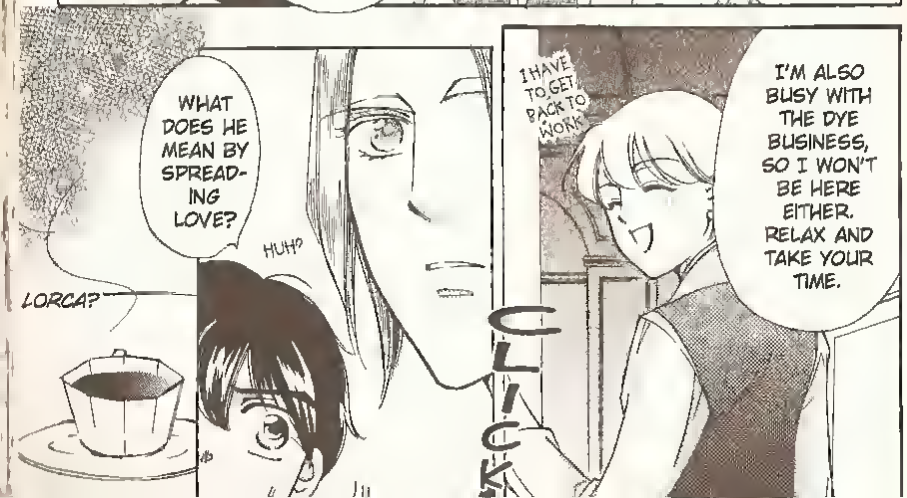
OH REALLY?
WHAT IS THE DYE MADE FROM?
IT'S EXTRACTED FROM COCHINEAL BUGS.
LADIES, THAT'S KNOWN AS CARMINE.
IT'S A BRAND NEW DYE MADE RIGHT HERE IN NAVARA.
THIS IS AN UN-USUAL SHADE OF RED.
YOU THINK? IT'S SOME-WHAT DULL.
I THINK IT'S UNDER-STATED AND ELEGANT.


...MY FUTURE BRIDE, PRINCESS PRIMULA!
WELCOME...
SLAM
WHERE IS SHE?
WHERE?
IT'S JUST SODA AND ME THIS TIME AROUND.
GLANCE
GLANCE
WHAT? CASTORIA?
WE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO CASTORIA RIGHT AWAY!
I TOLD YOU HE WOULDN'T BE GLAD TO SEE US!
SLUMP

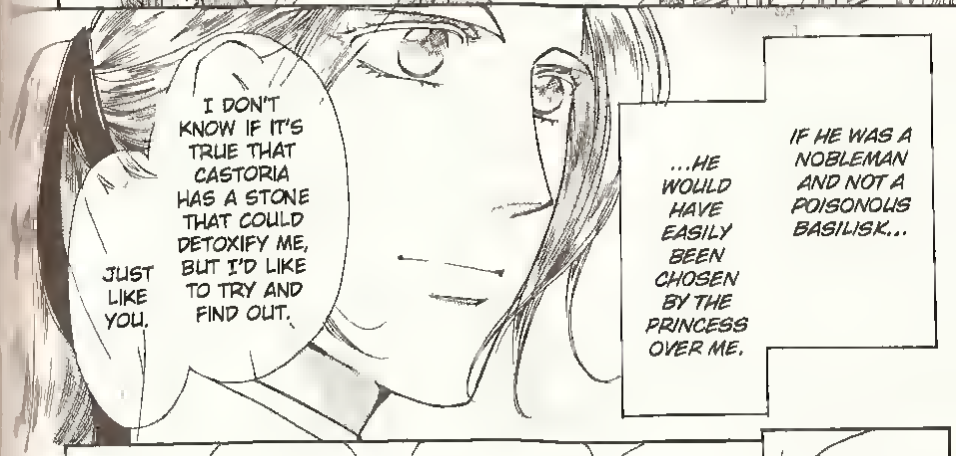

"I AM PLANNING TO INTRODUCE AN INDUSTRY THAT USES INSECTS."
"I WOULD LIKE TO CANCEL...
...THE ENGAGEMENT AND MARRIAGE."
"I PROMISE AS THE THIRD PRINCE OF NAVARA!"
"I WILL PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE TO PROTECT MY COUNTRY!"
"YOU HAVE 2 YEARS."
"IF YOUR PLAN IS NOT REALIZED BY THEN..."
"...THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, INCLUDING YOURSELF, WILL SUBMIT TO MY RULE."
...IF I DID THE RIGHT THING.
HOWEVER, RECENTLY, I'VE BEEN WONDERING ...
I DID WHAT I DID BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE THE HISTORY OF NAVARA AND BECOME PART OF BEAZOL.
CLOP CLOP
VISITORS FROM BEAZOL?
COULD IT BE...
!
YOU HAVE VISITORS FROM BEAZOL WAITING FOR YOUR AUDIENCE BACK AT THE PALACE.
YES?
PRINCE LORCA, EXCUSE ME.

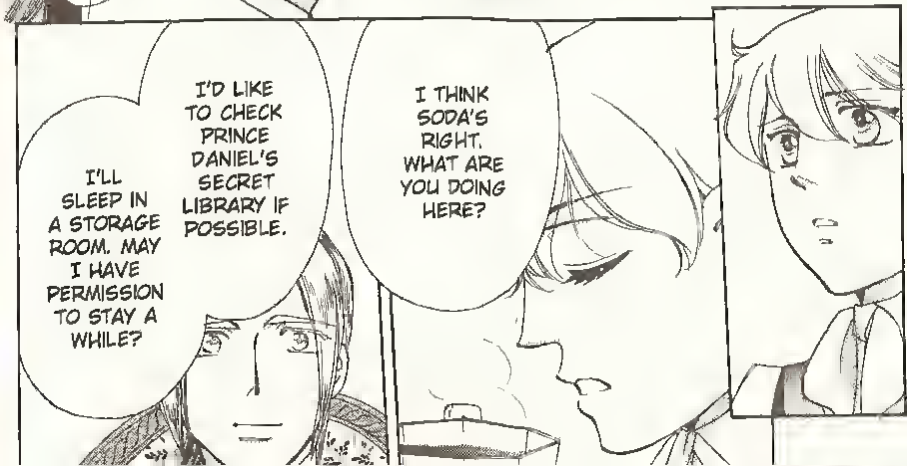

YOU MAY NO LONGER BE THE ROYAL APOTHECARY OF BEAZOL, BUT YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
YOU CAN STAY, AND I'LL PREPARE THE GUEST QUARTERS FOR YOU.
CLATTER
NO, I WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CASTORIA.
I WAS JOKING.
YOU REALLY WANT TO READ MY BROTHER'S SMUT?

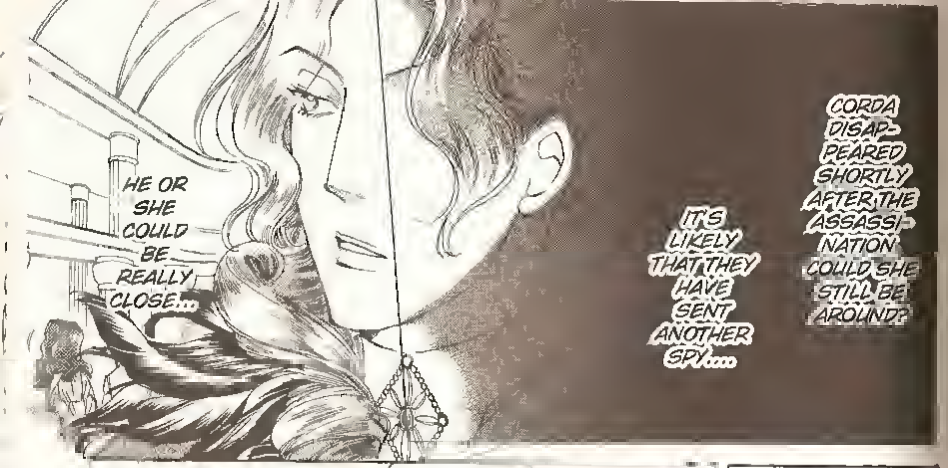

WHAT WAS HE? THE SOMETHING OF LOVE...
MY BROTHER'S OUT TO SPREAD HIS LOVE. HE'S NOT AT THE CASTLE.
I SHOULD GET PERMISSION FROM PRINCE DANIEL...

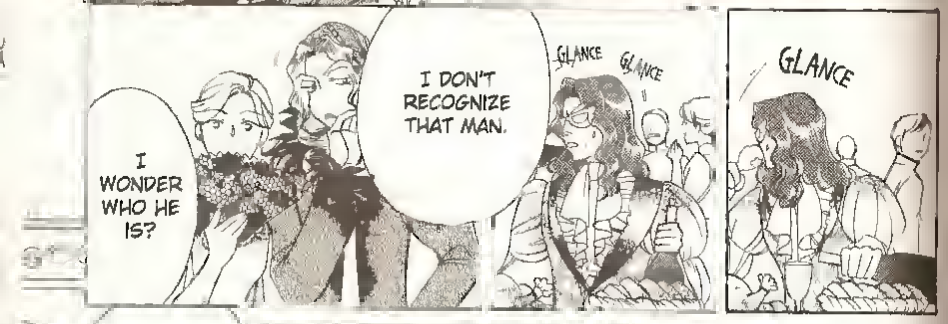

WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY SPREADING LOVE?
HUH?
LORCA?
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK
CLICK
I'M ALSO BUSY WITH THE DYE BUSINESS, SO I WON'T BE HERE EITHER. RELAX AND TAKE YOUR TIME.

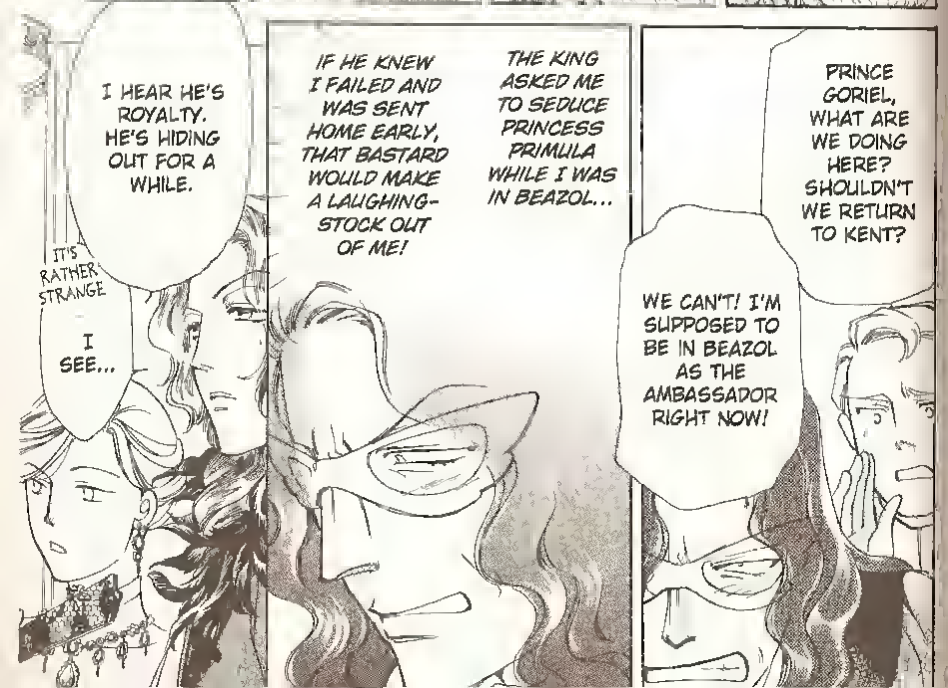
I OWE HIM MY LIFE FOR HEALING THE PLAGUE THAT SCOURGED MYSELF AND MY PEOPLE. HE'S ALSO THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN PRINCESS PRIMULA'S LIFE.
HE'S ARGENT, THE SILVER APOTHECARY FROM BEAZOL.
I WAS TOLD THAT I WAS ABANDONING MY DUTIES TO LEAVE AT SUCH AN IMPORTANT TIME.
I SEE
SO YOU DECIDED TO GO TO CASTORIA TO SEE IF YOU CAN FIX YOUR CONDITION ...

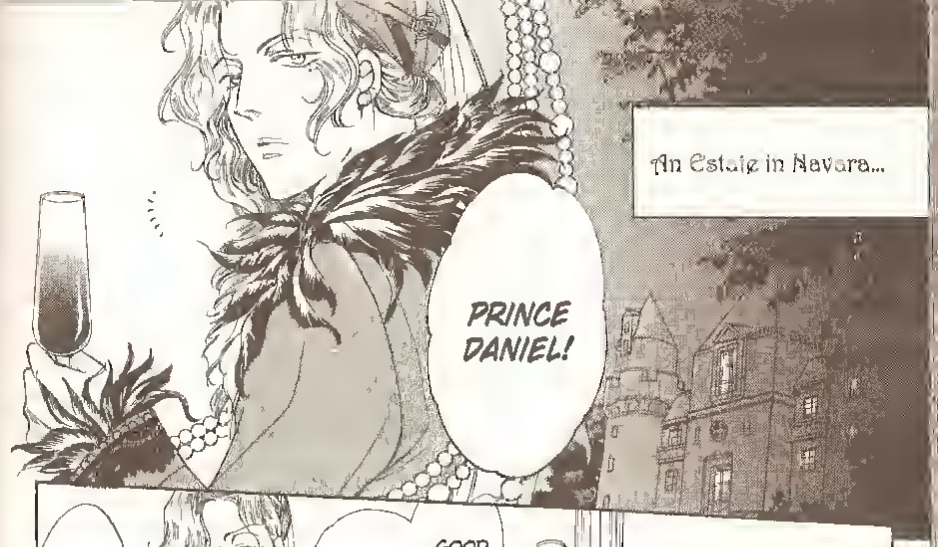

JUST LIKE YOU.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S TRUE THAT CASTORIA HAS A STONE THAT COULD DETOXIFY ME, BUT I'D LIKE TO TRY AND FIND OUT.
...HE WOULD HAVE EASILY BEEN CHOSEN BY THE PRINCESS OVER ME.
IF HE WAS A NOBLEMAN AND NOT A POISONOUS BASILISK...


I'LL SLEEP IN A STORAGE ROOM. MAY I HAVE PERMISSION TO STAY A WHILE?
I'D LIKE TO CHECK PRINCE DANIEL'S SECRET LIBRARY IF POSSIBLE.
I THINK SODA'S RIGHT. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


HE OR SHE COULD BE REALLY CLOSE...
IT'S LIKELY THAT THEY HAVE SENT ANOTHER SPY....
CORDA DISAP-PEARED SHORTLY AFTER THE ASSASSI-NATION COULD SHE STILL BE AROUND?

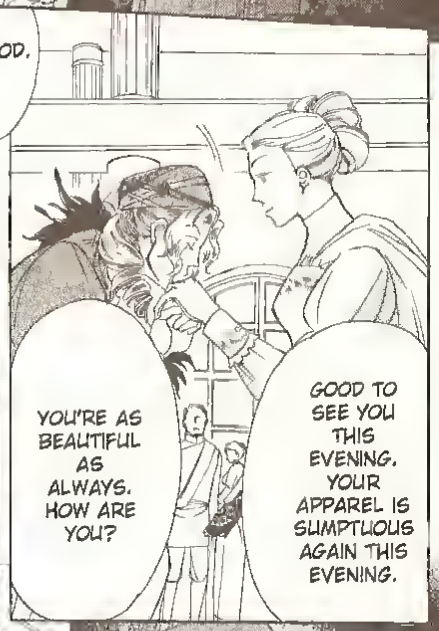

I WONDER WHO HE IS?
I DON'T RECOGNIZE THAT MAN.
GLANCE
GLANCE
GLANCE

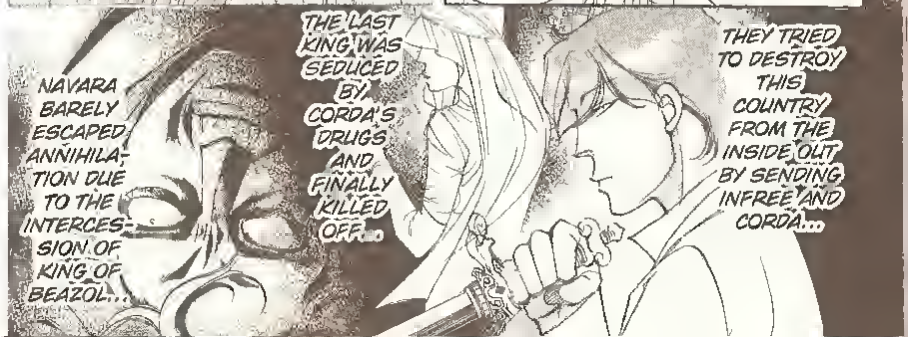

I HEAR HE'S ROYALTY. HE'S HIDING OUT FOR A WHILE.
IT'S RATHER STRANGE
I SEE...
IF HE KNEW I FAILED AND WAS SENT HOME EARLY, THAT BASTARD WOULD MAKE A LAUGHING-STOCK OUT OF ME!
THE KING ASKED ME TO SEDUCE PRINCESS PRIMULA WHILE I WAS IN BEAZOL...
PRINCE GORIEL, WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE? SHOULDN'T WE RETURN TO KENT?
WE CAN'T! I'M SUPPOSED TO BE IN BEAZOL AS THE AMBASSADOR RIGHT NOW!


An Estate in Navara...
PRINCE DANIEL!

THAT'S A GOOD THING.
IT'S JUST SO PEACEFUL, IT'S BORING.
GOOD.

WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO BE DESTROYED BY THE EMPIRE IN THE SOUTH...
BORING, EH... PEACE IS GOOD FOR THE NOBILITY.


YOU'RE AS BEAUTIFUL AS ALWAYS. HOW ARE YOU?
GOOD TO SEE YOU THIS EVENING. YOUR APPAREL IS SUMPTUOUS AGAIN THIS EVENING.


NAVARA BARELY ESCAPED ANNIHILA-TION DUE TO THE INTERCES-SION OF KING OF BEAZOL...
THE LAST KING WAS SEDUCED BY CORDA'S DRUGS AND FINALLY KILLED OFF...
THEY TRIED TO DESTROY THIS COUNTRY FROM THE INSIDE OUT BY SENDING INFREE AND CORDA...

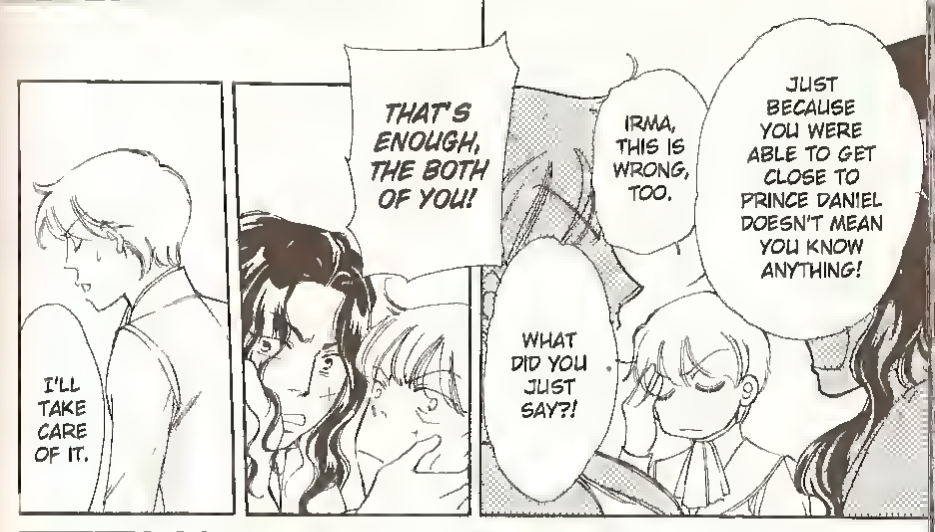
I'M QUEEN LIZE.
...YOU HELPED MY SON ZESLAN.
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY ...
I AGREE, ARGENT.
CAN YOU HELP HIM? I'M AFRAID HE'S GOING TO COLLAPSE DUE TO EXHAUSTION.
HIS ENDEAVOR IS NOT GOING WELL.
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH PRINCE LORCA?
YOU JUST DON'T LOVE INSECTS ENOUGH.
WE CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?
THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT GALLNUT FOR THE DYE.
LORD TOKLES AND HIS MEN ARE THE ONLY ONES HELPING WITH THE HARVESTING OF THE BUGS.
HIS PRODUCTS HAVE NO BUYERS AS OF YET.
WHAT A CUTE, YUMMY-LOOKING THING!
HERE'S WHAT I FOUND FOR TODAY.

I CAN'T FIND ANY USEFUL BOOKS...
I DON'T THINK I NEED TO WATCH HIM...
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
THERE'S LOTS OF RACY STUFF, BUT...
SLAM
HUH?
YOU LOOK FLUSHED.
I'M TALKING ABOUT LORCA.
I FOUND HIM...

JOLT
LIZE ASKED ME TO COME.
ARGENT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
THIS IS FOR YOU, LORCA.

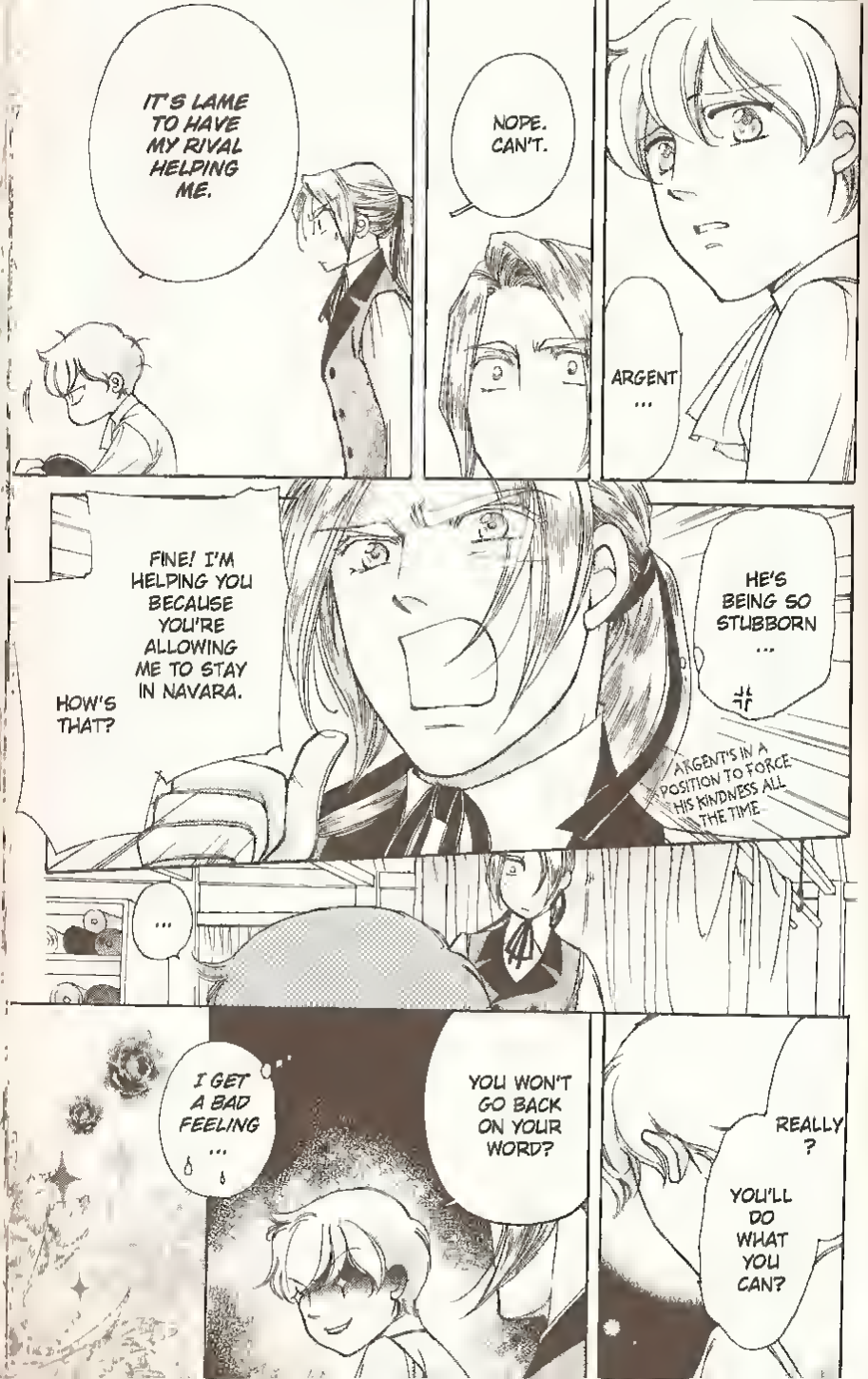
I ALSO WANTED TO SEE HOW YOUR BUSINESS WAS GOING.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAD TO!

I THINK HE RESPECTED YOUR DETER-MINATION AND TALENT.
HE MAY BE CALCULATING, BUT NOT AS MUCH AS YOU THINK.
THAT OLD FOX PROBABLY ALLOWED ME TO DO THIS BECAUSE HE KNEW I'D FAIL.
I SAID I'LL PRODUCE RESULTS IN 2 YEARS, BUT...
AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S NOT TAKING OFF.

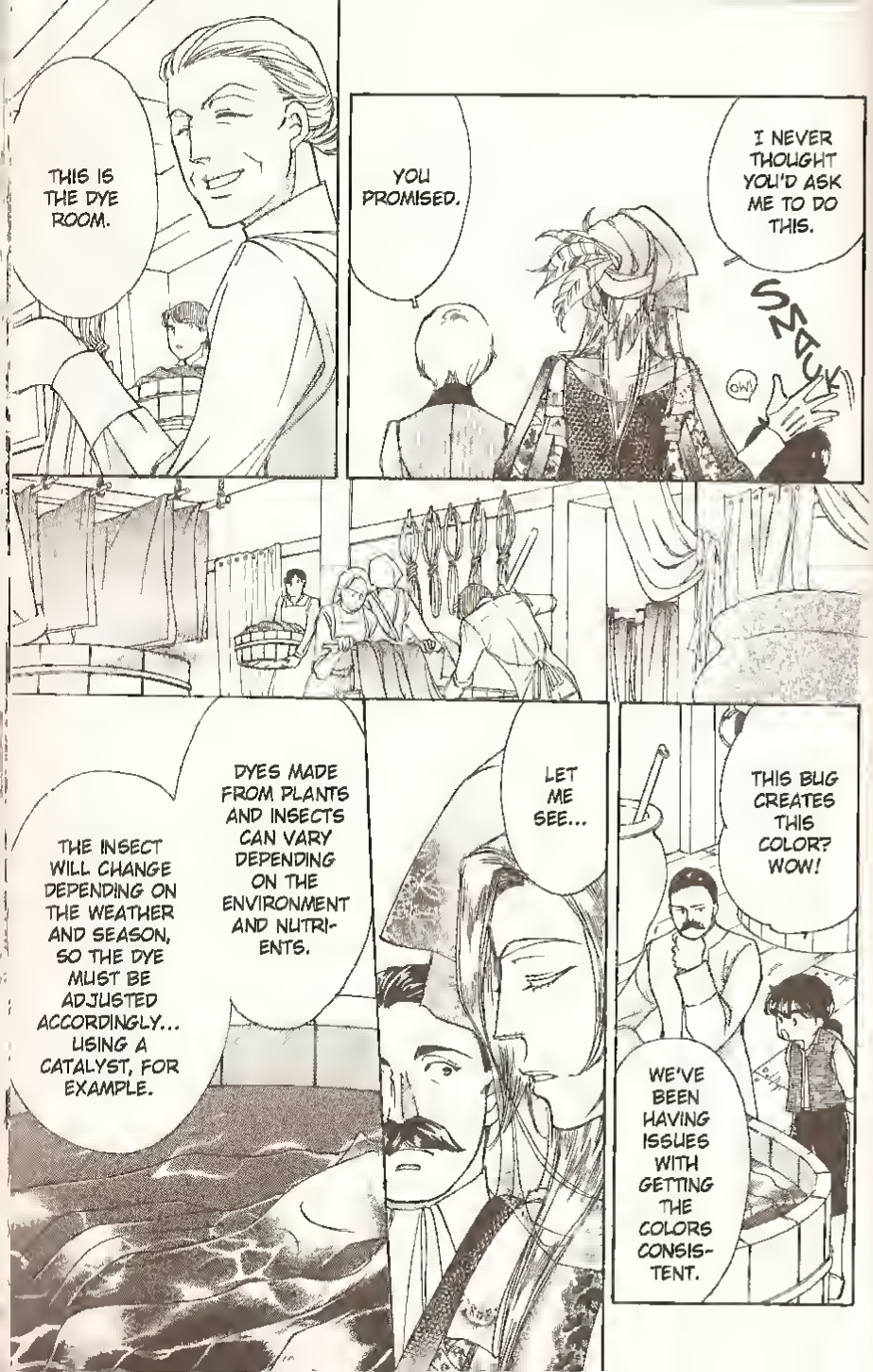

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
THAT'S ENOUGH, THE BOTH OF YOU!
IRMA, THIS IS WRONG, TOO.
JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE ABLE TO GET CLOSE TO PRINCE DANIEL DOESN'T MEAN YOU KNOW ANYTHING!
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

TRUE.
I THINK IT'S HARD FOR PEOPLE TO ACCEPT...
...A DESPISED PEST AS A PRODUCT.

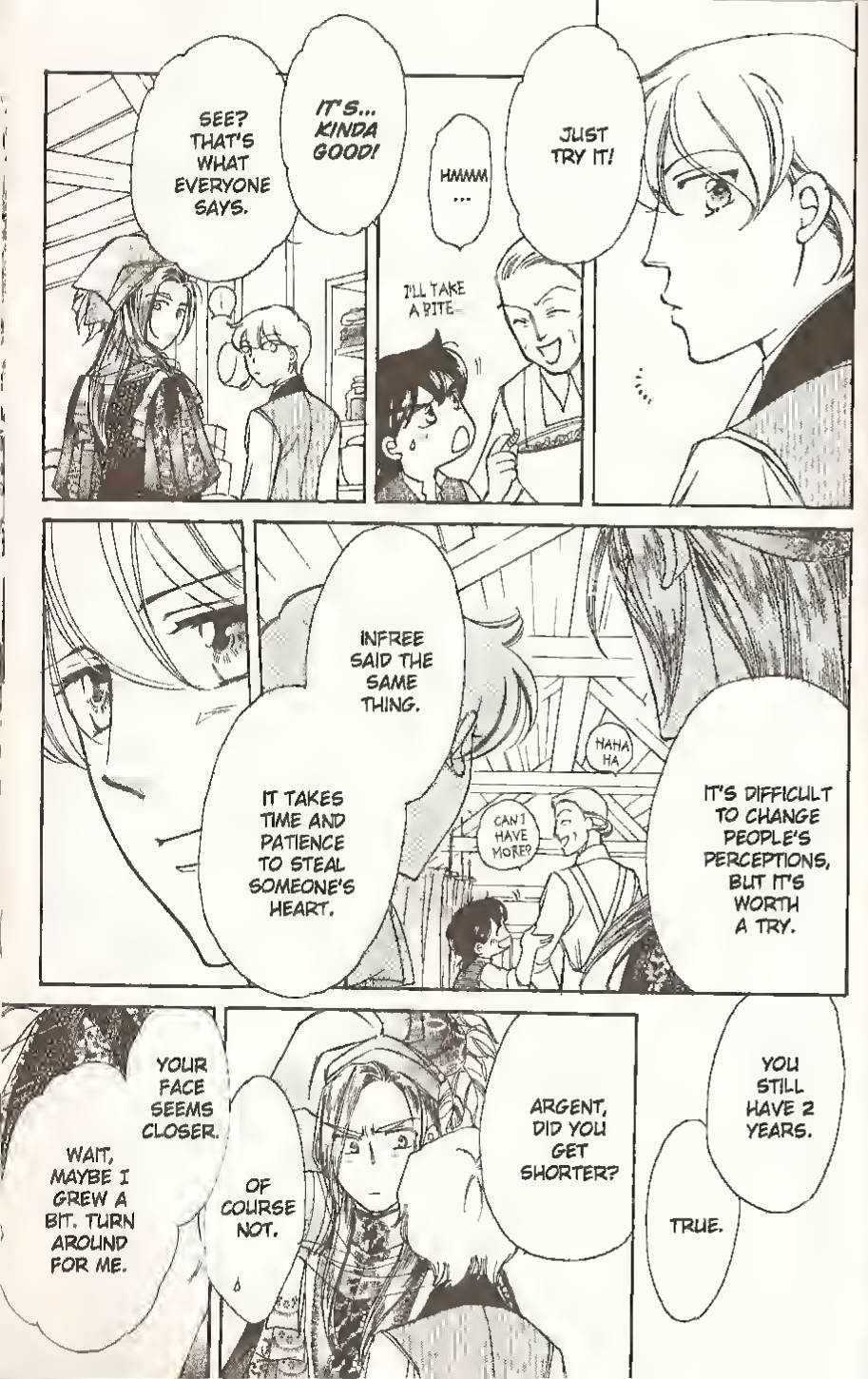
WHEN INFREE WAS AROUND, HE WOULD....
...FIND SOMETHING AND BRING IT TO ME.
FORMER THIEF
Slump
I'M STARVING! I'M DONE!
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S CARRYING EVERYTHING ON HIS OWN.
ADONA'S BUSY, AND DANIEL IS GONE.
INFREE IS GONE, SO HE HAS NOBODY TO DEPEND ON.


IT'S LAME TO HAVE MY RIVAL HELPING ME.
NOPE. CAN'T.
ARGENT ...
FINE! I'M HELPING YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE ALLOWING ME TO STAY IN NAVARA.
HOW'S THAT?
HE'S BEING SO STUBBORN ...
ARGENT'S IN A POSITION TO FORCE HIS KINDNESS ALL THE TIME
...
I GET A BAD FEELING ...
YOU WON'T GO BACK ON YOUR WORD?
REALLY?
YOU'LL DO WHAT YOU CAN?

I HAVE TO BE STUB-BORN!
NOBODY IS GOING TO COME ALONG TO HELP YOU IF YOU'RE STUBBORN.
LORCA, YOU NEED TO TRUST YOURSELF MORE.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, HE WAS WRONG.
I HAVE TO SEE THIS THROUGH!
...I WOULD DIE FOR MY COUNTRY!
I PROMISED INFREE AND EVERYONE ELSE THAT...
I MAY NOT BE AS HELPFUL AS INFREE, BUT I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP.
...ALLOWS EVERYONE TO LIVE OUT THEIR TALENTS, NOT JUST LIVE.
PRINCESS PRIMULA SAID THAT A RULER ...
NOBODY ASKED YOU TO DO IT ON YOUR OWN.


THIS IS THE DYE ROOM.
YOU PROMISED.
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D ASK ME TO DO THIS.
SIGH
OW!
THIS BUG CREATES THIS COLOR? WOW!
LET ME SEE...
DYES MADE FROM PLANTS AND INSECTS CAN VARY DEPENDING ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NUTRIENTS.
THE INSECT WILL CHANGE DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER AND SEASON, SO THE DYE MUST BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY... USING A CATALYST, FOR EXAMPLE.
WE'VE BEEN HAVING ISSUES WITH GETTING THE COLORS CONSISTENT.

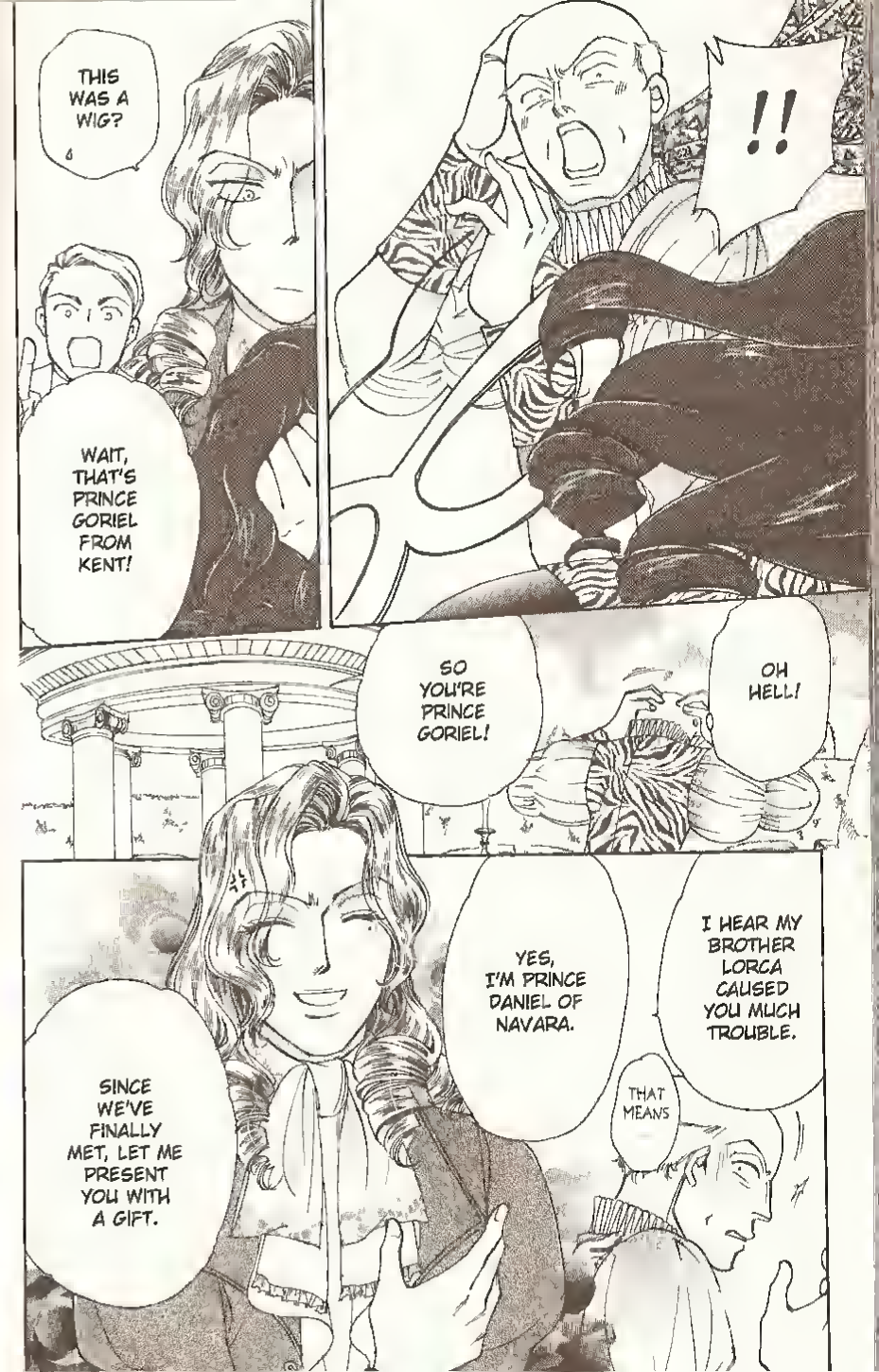
CHAPTER
EVERY-ONE, REJOICE!
MY BROTHER DANIEL IS HERE TO SPREAD A MESSAGE OF LOVE!
HE'S GOR-GEOUS!
HE'S THE FAMOUS PRINCE DANIEL?!
PRINCE DANIEL! IT'S ME, IRMA! I HEARD YOUR BALLAD OF LOVE BEFORE!
OH MY GOOD-NESS! THANK YOU!
I CAN LEARN TO LOVE BUGS, TOO!
SNICKER
I'M GLAD I TAGGED ALONG
WONDERFUL! YOU HAVE BECOME MORE BEAUTIFUL NOW THAT THE LOVE OF INSECTS IS IN YOUR HEART! STAY ON THAT PATH.
AS YOU TOLD ME BEFORE, I HAVE COME TO LOVE BUGS! LOOK AT THIS FAT, HEALTHY ONE!
PLUMP


SEE? THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE SAYS.
IT'S... KINDA GOOD!
HMMM...
JUST TRY IT!
I'LL TAKE A BITE.
INFREE SAID THE SAME THING.
IT TAKES TIME AND PATIENCE TO STEAL SOMEONE'S HEART.
CAN I HAVE MORE?
HAHA HA
IT'S DIFFICULT TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS, BUT IT'S WORTH A TRY.
YOUR FACE SEEMS CLOSER.
WAIT, MAYBE I GREW A BIT. TURN AROUND FOR ME.
OF COURSE NOT.
ARGENT, DID YOU GET SHORTER?
TRUE.
YOU STILL HAVE 2 YEARS.

THIS BUG LOOKS LIKE IT HAS ASTRINGENT PROPERTIES. IT COULD BE USEFUL FOR SOMETHING.
YOU MAY FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR EVEN WHEN YOU MAKE MISTAKES.
THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF TRIAL AND ERROR.
I... GUESS.
JOLT
YOU KNOW MORE THAN THE LOCAL APOTHECARIES, EVEN!
YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR REPUTATION AS A READER OF BOOKS AND A MAN OF EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE, PRINCE DANIEL!
LORCA, BUGS AND MEDICINE ARE BOTH SIMILAR.
IT TOOK HUNDREDS OF YEARS TO RECOGNIZE THAT TOXIC SUBSTANCES COULD HAVE HEALING PROPERTIES.
I'LL START EXPERIMENTING RIGHT AWAY.
YOU ARE QUITE THE HEALER, ARGENT.
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE PICKLED GRUB TONIGHT!
UGHHHH!
IN BEAZOL, PEOPLE ORIGINALLY THOUGHT I WAS PUTTING CURSES ON PEOPLE AND MAKING DRUGS OF THE DEVIL...
?

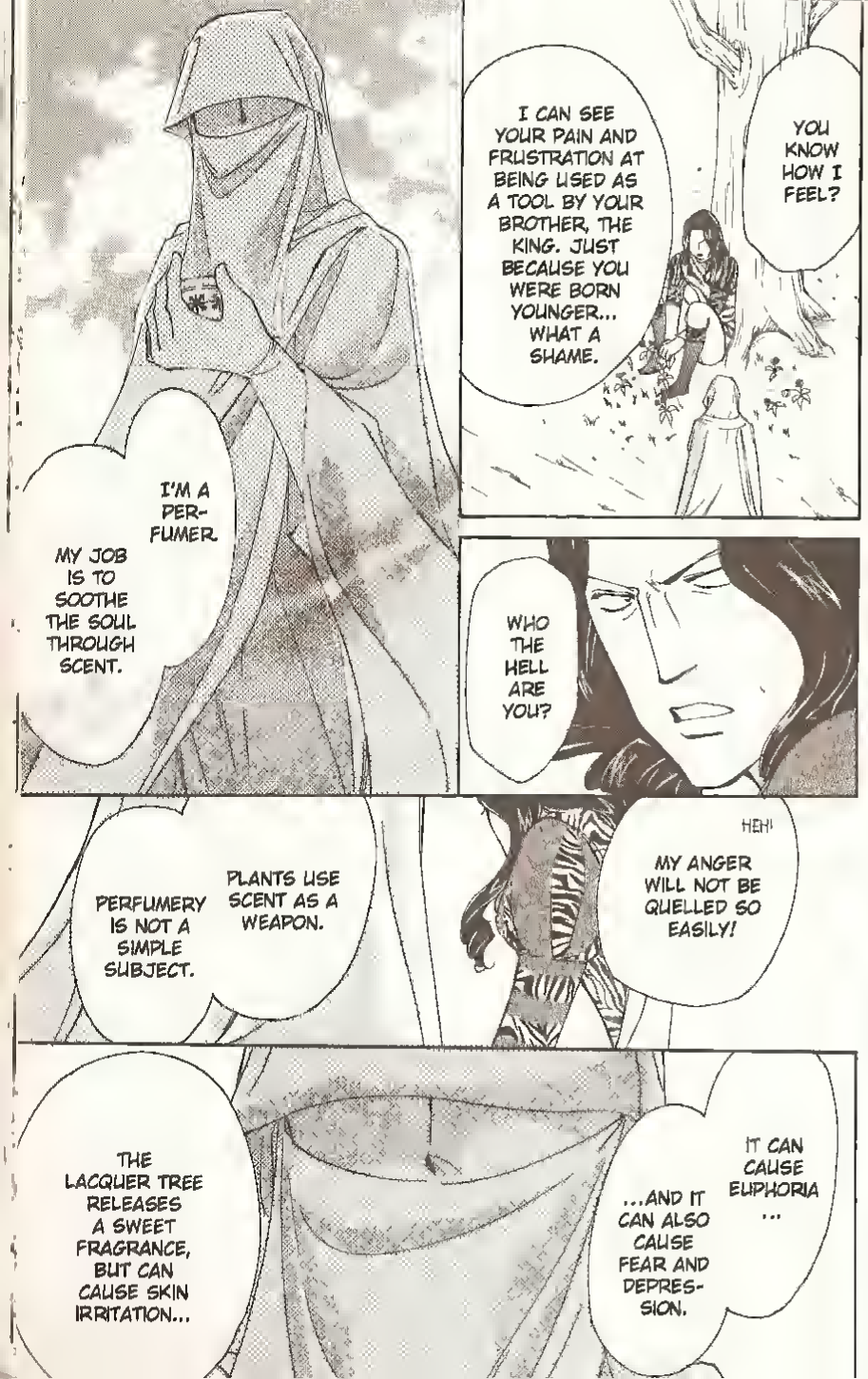
OH?
THAT WAS THE PRINCE I SAW THE OTHER EVENING ...
HE'S BEEN WANDERING FROM PARTY TO PARTY RECENTLY.
HE CLAIMS TO BE PRINCE DANIEL OF NAVARA, THE BALLADEER OF LOVE.
KYAAAH!
WHADDYA MEAN YOU DON'T WANNA DRINK MY WINE?
CRACK
WHO THE HELL ARE YA?
I'M SORRY.
I STAINED YOUR CLOTHES. YOU SHOULD CHANGE...
NO, DON'T TOUCH ME!
I HAVE NO CHOICE.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO CALL YOURSELF PRINCE DANIEL, YOU MUST BE ELEGANT AT ALL TIMES!
GRAB
SCREECH
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
BALLADEER OF LOVE
Splash
I'LL BE WORKING ON MY SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE, MY DEAR PRINCE!
ISN'T THAT PRINCE DANIEL, THE FAMOUS "BALLADEER OF LOVE?"
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WOULD PAY ATTENTION TO GRANNIES.
THANK YOU, LORD KEELY. I'D LOVE TO COME BACK AGAIN.
WE'D ENJOY THAT.
LORCA, DID YOU?
WHAT?!
PRINCE DANIEL?!
HAHA HA
I'M THE ONE THAT TAUGHT HIM A THING OR TWO!
LORCA?!
I'VE GONE TO VARIOUS ESTATES BUT I DON'T SEE ANYONE OR ANYTHING UNUSUAL...
TIME FOR ME TO RETURN TO THE PALACE...
CRASH

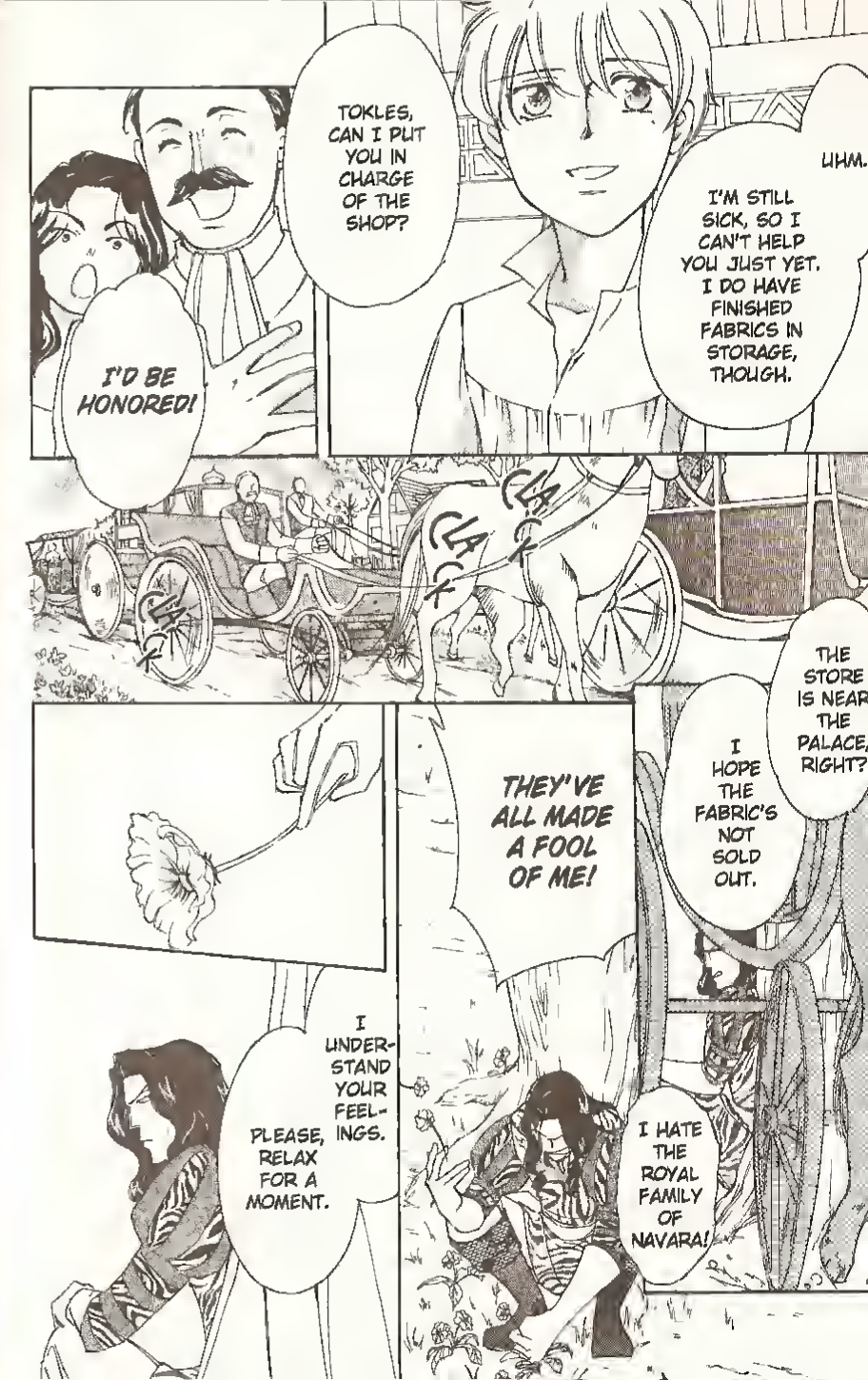
THERE'S NO ODOR AND WILL NOT CAUSE IRRITATION. I THINK IT WOULD BE LOVELY AS A GARMENT FOR LADIES' TENDER, SOFT SKIN/
IT'S CALLED CARMINE. IT'S A NEW DYE DEVELOPED AND STARTED IN NAVARA!
HERE YOU GO.
HOW GOR-GEOUS!
IT'S VERY ELEGANT!
I'D LOVE ONE!
REALLY?
THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME ADVER-TISE.
I'LL GIVE YOU A SPECIAL PRICE.
PLEASE LET ME KNOW ANYTIME!

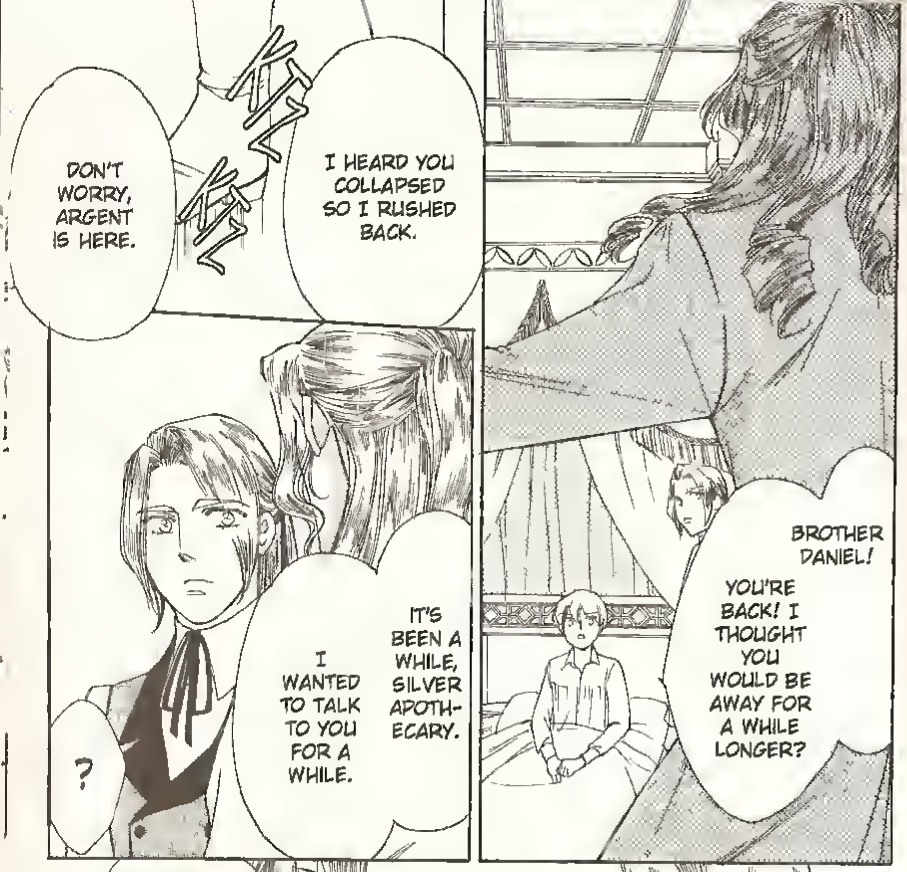

THIS WAS A WIG?
WAIT, THAT'S PRINCE GORIEL FROM KENT!
!!
SO YOU'RE PRINCE GORIEL!
OH HELL!
SINCE WE'VE FINALLY MET, LET ME PRESENT YOU WITH A GIFT.
YES, I'M PRINCE DANIEL OF NAVARA.
I HEAR MY BROTHER LORCA CAUSED YOU MUCH TROUBLE.
THAT MEANS

I WAS JUST RELAXING, THAT'S ALL.
I'M FINE NOW. YOU SHOULD HEAD TO CASTORIA.
YOU WANTED TO DROP BY AND MAKE SURE I WAS DOING ALL RIGHT, DIDN'T YOU? RESEARCH WAS JUST YOUR EXCUSE.
THANK YOU, ARGENT.
knock knock
EXCUSE ME.
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU RECOVER AS SOON AS--?
WORD MUST HAVE SPREAD SOMEHOW. NOBLEWOMEN ARE LINING UP TO BUY FABRIC!
WE CAN'T KEEP UP!
LORCA, ORDERS FOR THE FABRIC HAVE JUST EXPLODED! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!

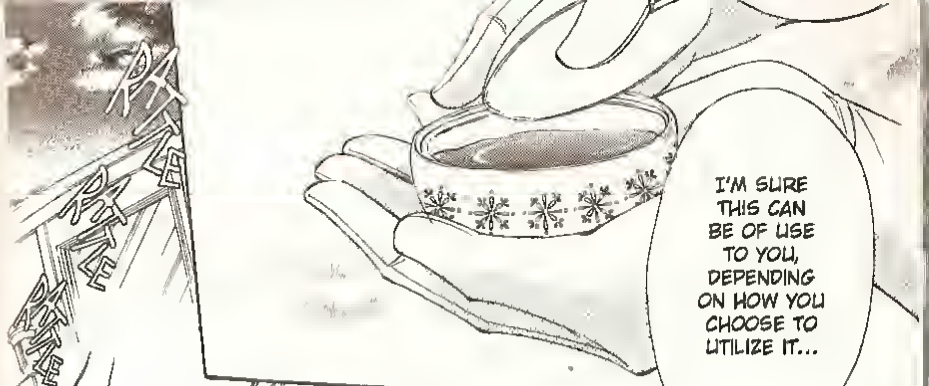
I'M SO BEAUTIFUL, IT'S ALMOST SINFUL.
HEH
PRINCE DANIEL, I HAVE A MESSAGE.
EVERYONE FINDS A WAY TO INSULT ME! I CAN'T RELAX FOR A SECOND!
EXCUSE ME!
LORCA ?!
IT'S FROM NAVARA. PRINCE LORCA HAS COLLAPSED.
THANKS TO HIS PRESENCE, THE PRINCE IS EXPECTED TO RECOVER.
THE FORMER ROYAL APOTHECARY OF BEAZOL HAS LEFT THE COUNTRY AND IS STAYING IN NAVARA.
HOW IS HE DOING?
ARGENT THE APOTH-ECARY?
WHAT IS HE DOING IN NAVARA?!


I'M A PER-FUMER.
MY JOB IS TO SOOTHE THE SOUL THROUGH SCENT.
I CAN SEE YOUR PAIN AND FRUSTRATION AT BEING USED AS A TOOL BY YOUR BROTHER, THE KING. JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE BORN YOUNGER... WHAT A SHAME.
YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
HEH!
MY ANGER WILL NOT BE QUELLED SO EASILY!
PERFUMERY IS NOT A SIMPLE SUBJECT.
PLANTS USE SCENT AS A WEAPON.
THE LACQUER TREE RELEASES A SWEET FRAGRANCE, BUT CAN CAUSE SKIN IRRITATION...
...AND IT CAN ALSO CAUSE FEAR AND DEPRES-SION.
IT CAN CAUSE EUPHORIA ...


TOKLES, CAN I PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THE SHOP?
I'D BE HONORED!
UHM.
I'M STILL SICK, SO I CAN'T HELP YOU JUST YET. I DO HAVE FINISHED FABRICS IN STORAGE, THOUGH.
CLACK CLACK CLACK
THE STORE IS NEAR THE PALACE, RIGHT?
I HOPE THE FABRIC'S NOT SOLD OUT.
THEY'VE ALL MADE A FOOL OF ME!
I HATE THE ROYAL FAMILY OF NAVARA!
I UNDER-STAND YOUR FEEL-INGS.
PLEASE, RELAX FOR A MOMENT.

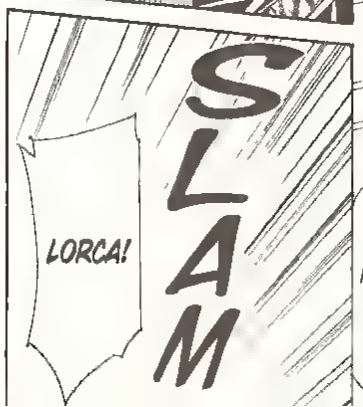

DON'T WORRY, ARGENT IS HERE.
I HEARD YOU COLLAPSED SO I RUSHED BACK.
?
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU FOR A WHILE.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, SILVER APOTH-ECARY.
BROTHER DANIEL!
YOU'RE BACK! I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE AWAY FOR A WHILE LONGER?

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT YOUR PERFUME.
GRAB!
LET ME SMELL IT UP CLOSE.


I'M SURE THIS CAN BE OF USE TO YOU, DEPENDING ON HOW YOU CHOOSE TO UTILIZE IT...

HE HAS THE SAME SILVER HAIR AS CORDA...
...AND THE SAME FRAGRANCE.
WHY DID HE LEAVE HIS POSITION AS THE ROYAL APOTHECARY NOW?

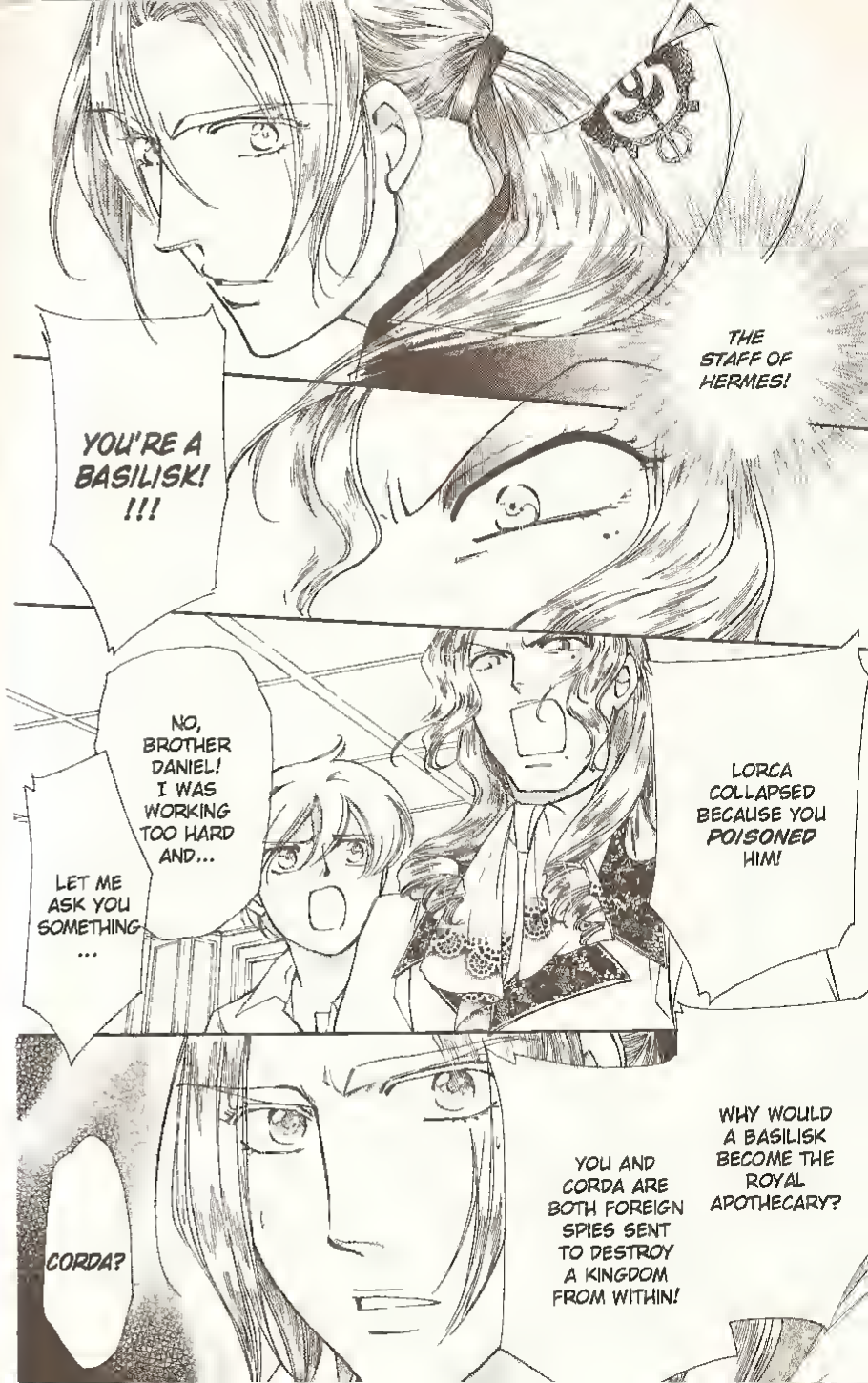
DANIEL?

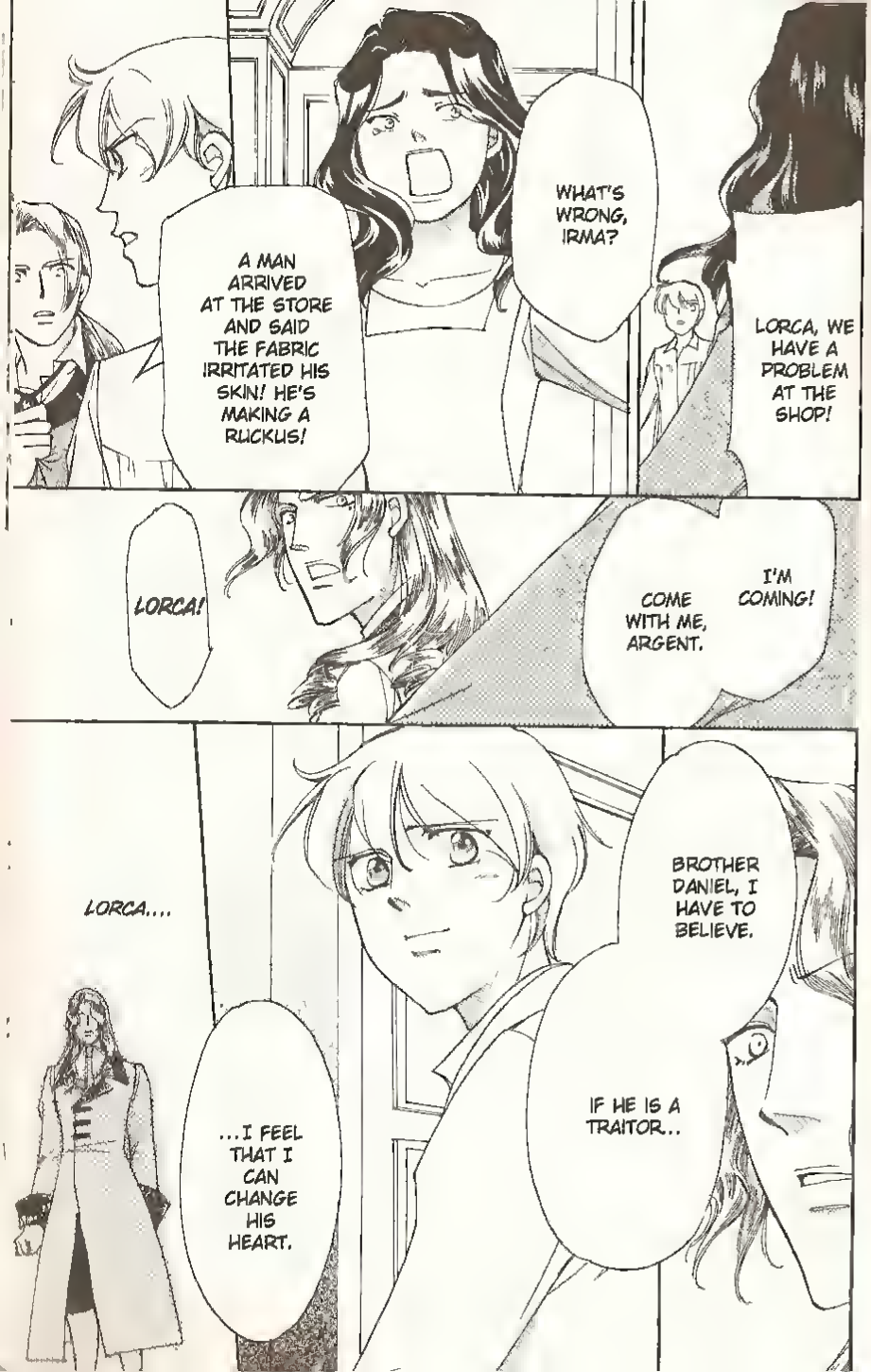

SLAM
LORCA!

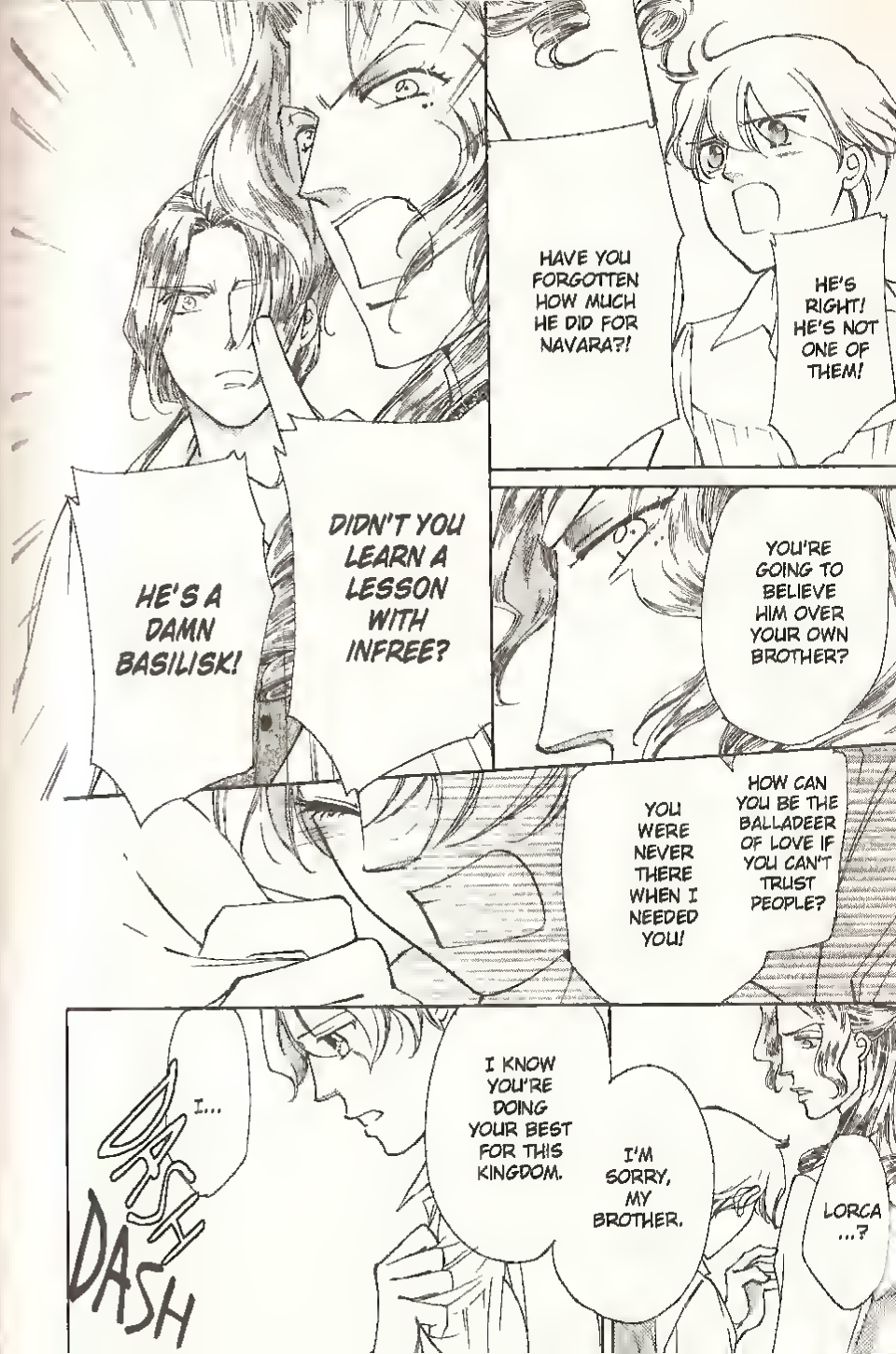
WELCOME BACK, DANIEL.
HOW WERE THE ESTATES?
YOUR MAJESTY, WHERE'S LORCA?

HE ALWAYS BOTHERED ME FROM THE BEGIN-NING!

WHO IS THAT?
DON'T PLAY DUMB! SHE WAS SENT BY THE SOUTHERN EMPIRE TO INFILTRATE THE ROYAL FAMILY.
SHE HAD SILVER HAIR LIKE YOU AND BECAME MY FATHER'S LOVER.
SHE GAVE HIM POISON ONE NIGHT AND KILLED HIM!
THE KING OF BEAZOL WANTED TO KEEP THAT SECRET.
A BASILISK IN NAVARA?
TELL ME! YOU'VE BEEN SENT TO DESTROY US AGAIN, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN PROVE MY INNOCENCE.
I MAY BE TOXIC, BUT THE PRINCESS ALLOWED ME TO FIND A WAY TO USE MY TALENTS FOR LIFE, NOT DEATH.
A WOMAN... INFREE DID KNOW ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF BASILISKS.
MAYBE BEAZOL IS IN ALLIANCE WITH THE SOUTHERN EMPIRE?


THE STAFF OF HERMES!
YOU'RE A BASILISK!!!
LORCA COLLAPSED BECAUSE YOU POISONED HIM!
NO, BROTHER DANIEL! I WAS WORKING TOO HARD AND...
LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING...
WHY WOULD A BASILISK BECOME THE ROYAL APOTHECARY?
YOU AND CORDA ARE BOTH FOREIGN SPIES SENT TO DESTROY A KINGDOM FROM WITHIN!
CORDA?

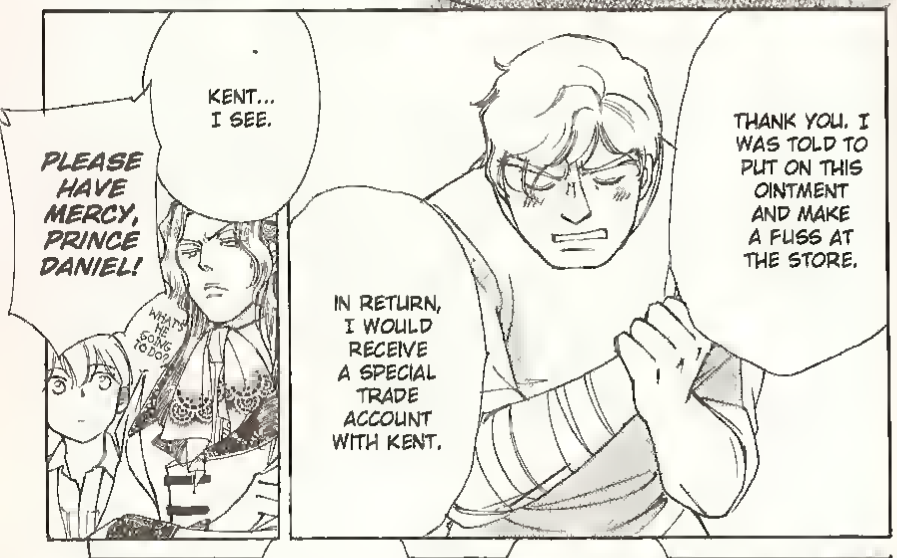

A MAN ARRIVED AT THE STORE AND SAID THE FABRIC IRRITATED HIS SKIN! HE'S MAKING A RUCKUS!
WHAT'S WRONG, IRMA?
LORCA, WE HAVE A PROBLEM AT THE SHOP!
LORCA!
COME WITH ME, ARGENT.
I'M COMING!
LORCA....
...I FEEL THAT I CAN CHANGE HIS HEART.
BROTHER DANIEL, I HAVE TO BELIEVE.
IF HE IS A TRAITOR...


HE'S A DAMN BASILISK!
DIDN'T YOU LEARN A LESSON WITH INFREE?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW MUCH HE DID FOR NAVARA?!
HE'S RIGHT! HE'S NOT ONE OF THEM!
YOU'RE GOING TO BELIEVE HIM OVER YOUR OWN BROTHER?
YOU WERE NEVER THERE WHEN I NEEDED YOU!
HOW CAN YOU BE THE BALLADEER OF LOVE IF YOU CAN'T TRUST PEOPLE?
I...
DASH
I KNOW YOU'RE DOING YOUR BEST FOR THIS KINGDOM.
I'M SORRY, MY BROTHER.
LORCA ...?

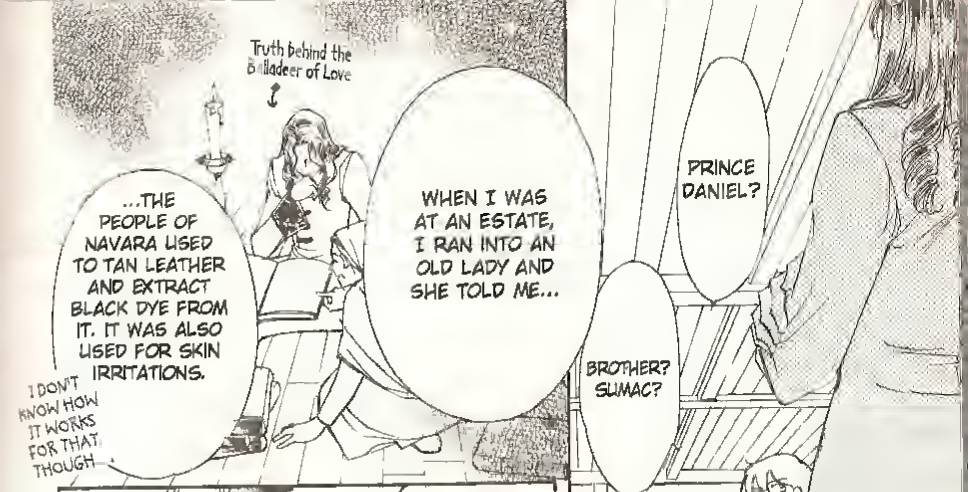
IT'S LIKE THE PESTICIDE LADY PRIMULA SPLASHED ON HERSELF BACK AT LORD TOKLES' MANOR!
!
I DIDN'T PUT LACQUER ON MY ARM. WHAT DO YOU...
UH...
THIS ISN'T JUST PLAIN LACQUER.
THIS ISN'T JUST AN IRRITATION. WHAT DID YOU PUT ON YOUR ARM?!
LET ME GO! YOU CAN'T SCARE ME!
YES!
SODA, BRING ME SALT WATER! HE NEEDS IMMEDIATE TREATMENT!
I THOUGHT WE DESTROYED THEM ALL!
I DON'T KNOW IF WHAT WE HAVE ON HAND WILL WORK.
OWWWW!
YOU MAY BE RIGHT ...
I'M NOT TRYING TO SCARE YOU! YOU MUST TAKE CARE OF THAT IMMEDIATELY!
USE THE GALLNUT ON A SUMAC TREE.
MY ARMS ARE STARTING TO BURN...

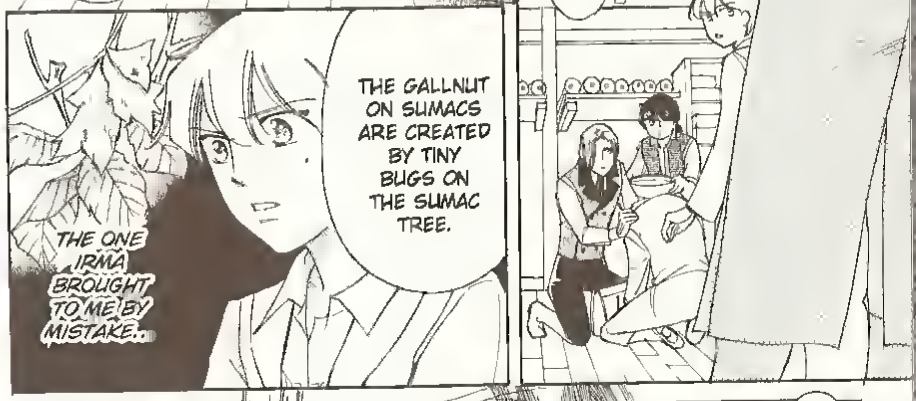
The shop near the Castle...
CHATTER
I'M YOUR FIRST ONE, BUDDY!
WAIT...
WE'VE NEVER HAD A SINGLE COMPLAINT...
THIS FABRIC CAN'T CAUSE THAT TYPE OF IRRITATION! THERE MUST BE A MISTAKE!
LOOK AT MY ARM! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT THAT!
THIS IS...
OWW WWW WWW
LET ME TAKE A LOOK.
WHO ARE YOU?
JUST A PASSING APOTHECARY.

I'M GLAD YOU WERE TREATED IN TIME.
IN A FEW DAYS, YOU WILL BE BETTER.

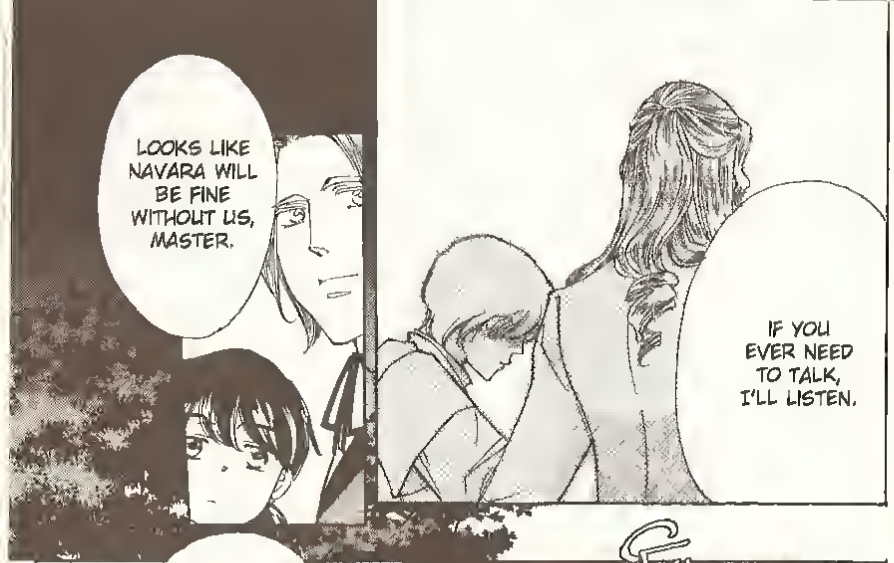

KENT... I SEE.
PLEASE HAVE MERCY, PRINCE DANIEL!
WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO?
IN RETURN, I WOULD RECEIVE A SPECIAL TRADE ACCOUNT WITH KENT.
THANK YOU. I WAS TOLD TO PUT ON THIS OINTMENT AND MAKE A FUSS AT THE STORE.

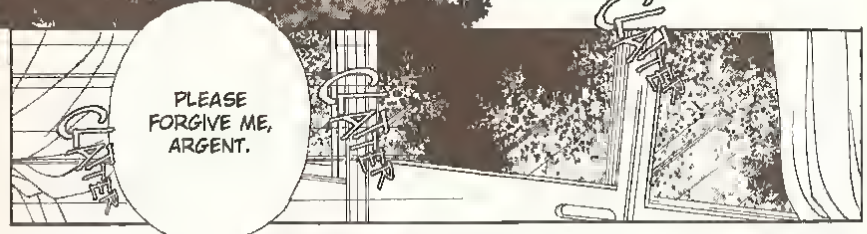
RIGHT AWAY!
TOKLES, OPEN THE STORE!
WE SHOULD HAVE MANY CUSTOMERS.
YES, PRINCE!
YOUR PUNISHMENT IS TO WORK AT THIS STORE!
YOU MUST ACCEPT YOUR PUNISH-MENT.


Truth behind the Bulladeer of Love
...THE PEOPLE OF NAVARA USED TO TAN LEATHER AND EXTRACT BLACK DYE FROM IT. IT WAS ALSO USED FOR SKIN IRRITATIONS.
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WORKS FOR THAT, THOUGH...
WHEN I WAS AT AN ESTATE, I RAN INTO AN OLD LADY AND SHE TOLD ME...
PRINCE DANIEL?
BROTHER? SUMAC?

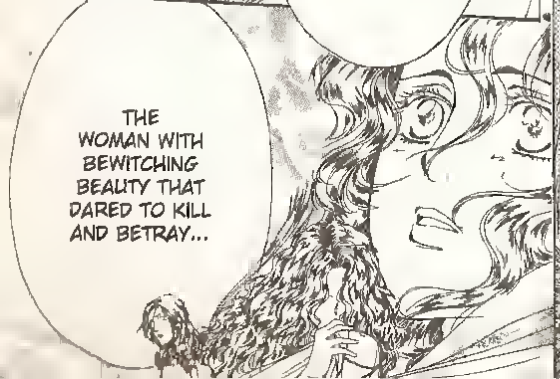

THE ONE IRMA BROUGHT TO ME BY MISTAKE..
THE GALLNUT ON SUMACS ARE CREATED BY TINY BUGS ON THE SUMAC TREE.

IF IT'S ASTRINGENT, IT COULD BE USED FOR SKIN IRRITATIONS...
THIS LOOKS USEFUL.
I GET IT!
IRMA, GO COLLECT THOSE GALLNUTS FROM THE SUMAC TREE!
Y... YES!
I SEE 2 PRINCE DANIELS. ONE BLONDE, ONE PLATINUM


LOOKS LIKE NAVARA WILL BE FINE WITHOUT US, MASTER.
IF YOU EVER NEED TO TALK, I'LL LISTEN.


PLEASE FORGIVE ME, ARGENT.

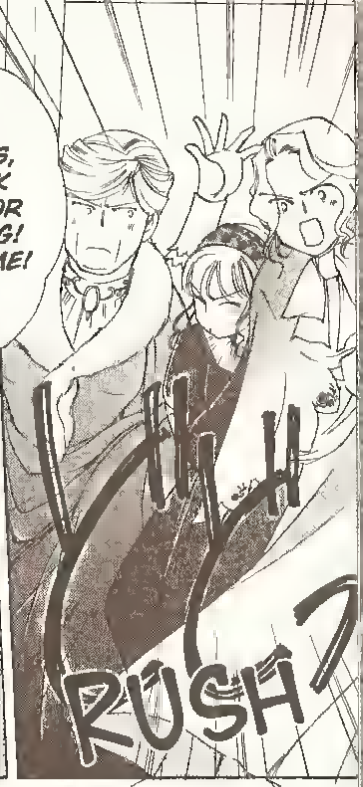
I THINK I TOOK MY ANGER OUT ON YOU...
...BECAUSE I WAS ANGRY AT A PARTICULAR WOMAN.

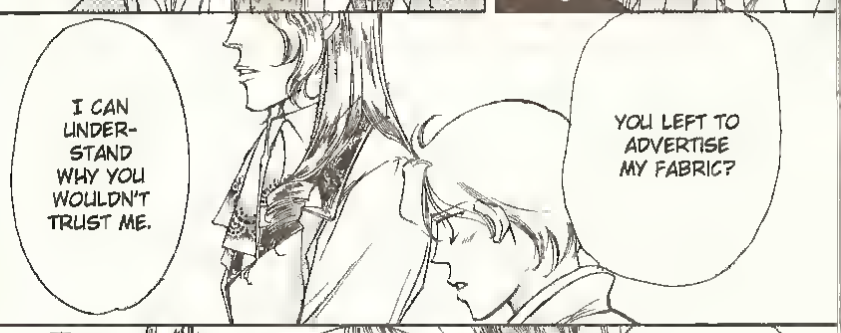

THE WOMAN WITH BEWITCHING BEAUTY THAT DARED TO KILL AND BETRAY...

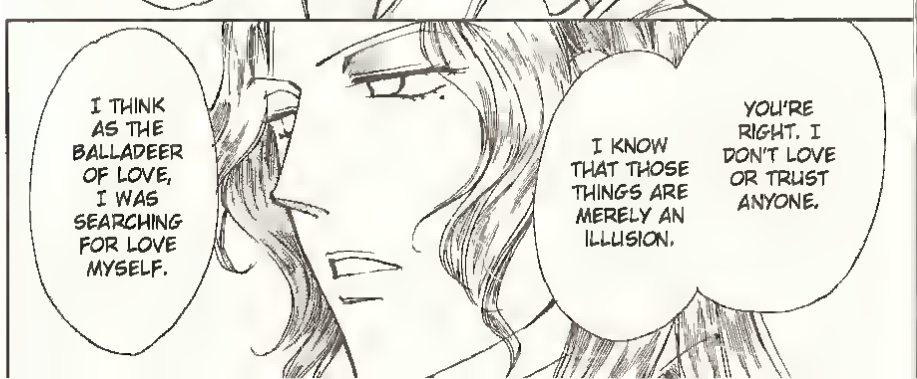
WHAT?
NOT BEING ABLE TO TRUST YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE A BASILISK ISN'T TOO FAR FROM PEOPLE THAT ARE AFRAID OF INSECTS.

WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
LADIES, THANK YOU FOR WAITING! WELCOME!

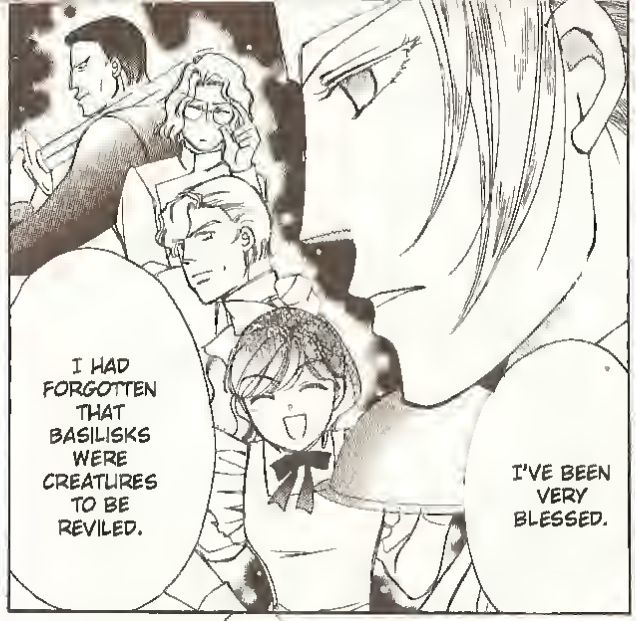
CHAT
CHIT
WHERE IS THE FABRIC YOU WORE FOR THE PARTY?
I HAVE TO GREET MY FAVORITE LADIES.
OH PRINCE DANIEL! I THOUGHT I WOULD SEE YOU HERE!


RUSH

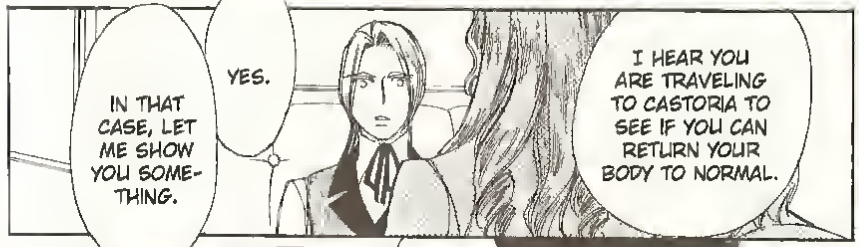

I CAN UNDER-STAND WHY YOU WOULDN'T TRUST ME.
YOU LEFT TO ADVERTISE MY FABRIC?

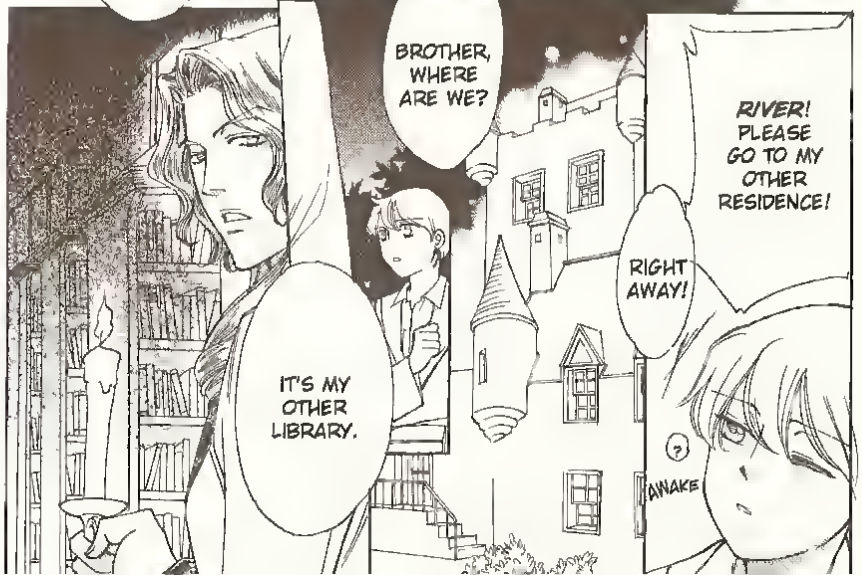

I THINK AS THE BALLADEER OF LOVE, I WAS SEARCHING FOR LOVE MYSELF.
I KNOW THAT THOSE THINGS ARE MERELY AN ILLUSION.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T LOVE OR TRUST ANYONE.

THERE ARE MANY SACRED AND SECRET TEXTS IN HERE.
CASTORIA HAS A LONG HISTORY OF BASILISKS.
I'M SURE IT'S BECAUSE THEIR LOCATION WAS CLOSE TO THE GROUP THAT DEVELOPED AND CREATED BASILISKS...
THIS IS AN OLD BOOK FROM CASTORIA. THIS TELLS YOU WHY A CERTAIN STONE EXISTS IN CASTORIA.
AT ONE POINT, THE PEOPLE AND THE BASILISKS COEXISTED.
THEN THE TIDE TURNED, AND THE BASILISKS WERE HUNTED DOWN AND DESTROYED.
CASTORIA IS FULL OF DANGEROUS FUMES IN THE MINES AS WELL AS VICIOUS ANIMALS IN THE WILD.
THEY USED BASILISKS IN LARGE NUMBERS.


I HAD FORGOTTEN THAT BASILISKS WERE CREATURES TO BE REVILED.
I'VE BEEN VERY BLESSED.

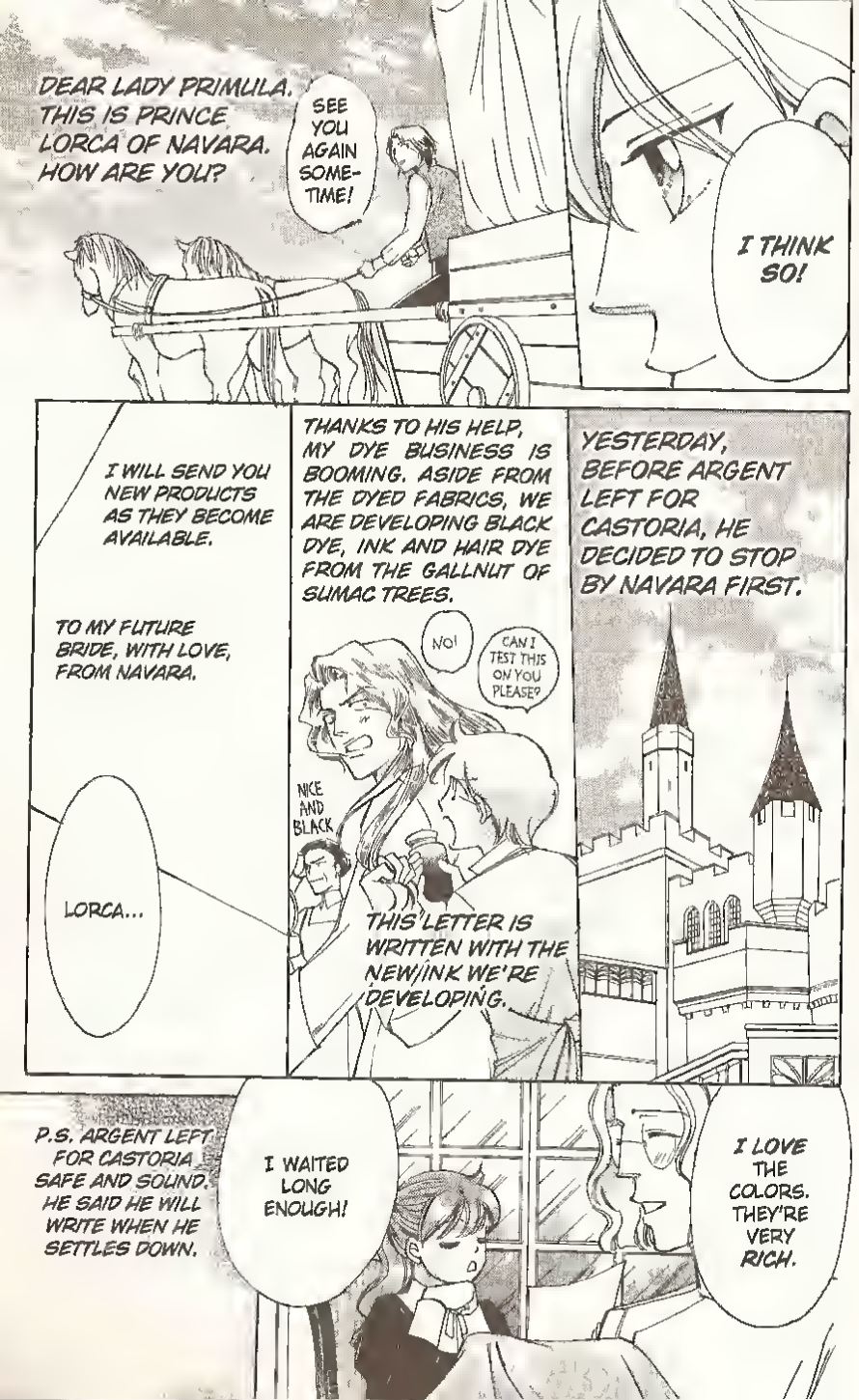
WE ONLY EX-CHANGED A FEW WORDS.
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE BETRAYED ME PERSON-ALLY...


IN THAT CASE, LET ME SHOW YOU SOME-THING.
YES.
I HEAR YOU ARE TRAVELING TO CASTORIA TO SEE IF YOU CAN RETURN YOUR BODY TO NORMAL.


BROTHER, WHERE ARE WE?
IT'S MY OTHER LIBRARY.
RIVER! PLEASE GO TO MY OTHER RESIDENCE!
RIGHT AWAY!
AWAKE

WHERE'S MY MASTER?
HE'S LATE! WHAT IS HE DOING?
SODA, THANKS FOR WAITING.
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M WAITING FOR MY MASTER!
WHA--?!
SMASH!!

THANK YOU FOR THE INFORMATION.
HOWEVER, TO GO AS YOU ARE WOULD BE A SUICIDE MISSION.
THE OLDER FOLKS THERE MAY KNOW MORE ABOUT BASILISKS.
YOU SHOULD GROW IT LONG! I'LL BRUSH IT FOR YOU.
YOU CAN TOUCH MY HAIR.
DON'T STARE AT ME!
YOU SAID I COULDN'T TOUCH IT, SO I HAVE TO STARE.


DEAR LADY PRIMULA. THIS IS PRINCE LORCA OF NAVARA. HOW ARE YOU?
SEE YOU AGAIN SOME-TIME!
I THINK SO!
I WILL SEND YOU NEW PRODUCTS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.
TO MY FUTURE BRIDE, WITH LOVE, FROM NAVARA.
LORCA...
THANKS TO HIS HELP, MY DYE BUSINESS IS BOOMING. ASIDE FROM THE DYED FABRICS, WE ARE DEVELOPING BLACK DYE, INK AND HAIR DYE FROM THE GALLNUT OF SUMAC TREES.
NO!
CAN I TEST THIS ON YOU PLEASE?
NICE AND BLACK
THIS LETTER IS WRITTEN WITH THE NEW INK WE'RE DEVELOPING.
YESTERDAY, BEFORE ARGENT LEFT FOR CASTORIA, HE DECIDED TO STOP BY NAVARA FIRST.
P.S. ARGENT LEFT FOR CASTORIA SAFE AND SOUND. HE SAID HE WILL WRITE WHEN HE SETTLES DOWN.
I WAITED LONG ENOUGH!
I LOVE THE COLORS. THEY'RE VERY RICH.

!
YOU CAN SELL IT AS HAIR DYE!
HERE'S THE RECIPE!
BESIDES, I DON'T WANT TO LOOK LIKE A BASILISK.
MY HAIR WILL GROW. I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO TOUCH IT ANY-MORE.
THE PRINCESS WOULD HAVE A FIT IF SHE SAW YOU..
WHAT DID YOU HAVE TO DO THAT FOR?
I GOT BLACK DYE FROM THE SUMAC GALLNUT AND DYED MY HAIR WITH IT.
THAT'S, ARGENT?
YOU CUT YOUR HAIR, AND IT'S DARK!
HE SEEMS REALLY DIFFERENT.
I'M SURE IT'S THE HAIR.
REALLY? DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY!
YOU PERV!
I'D RATHER TOUCH PEOPLE!
YEAH YEAH
I KNOW YOU LIKE PEOPLE TOUCHING YOU!
CHANGE THE HEART OF THAT YOUNG WOMAN WITH THE EMOTION-LESS FACE...
I WONDER IF I CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S HEART...
I HOPE TO CHANGE ONE DAY, TOO.
I THINK YOU CHANGED HIM, LORCA.

AFTERWORDS

Thank you for reading Argent's travels and image change was something I wanted to do earlier. I hope you liked it. He's training hard to be more social with his new look. He tried but failed when he had platinum hair. There was some space between the chapters, so I had an opportunity to create a side story, which was about a Father and Son in Heaven. I enjoy drawing the outline of kids' faces as they are so plump. I was also surprised by how Garna's popularity exploded. I'm also sad that I wasn't able to give Zantak's apprentices names. (Not that I thought of any.) The next volume will feature romance in unexpected places. The story will relay back to the Princess as well. I hope you continue reading this series!

I love the curve of this line here.

FEB. 2007 TOMOMI YAMASHITA

Scopolia Japonica (Chapter 17)

Scopolia is native to Japan. Accidental ingestion can cause confusion and result in people running about aimlessly.

Similar to Belladonna found in Europe, it contains alkaloids such as atropine and scopolamine. As a result, it has been used as a painkiller and anti-spasmodic.

It is currently used in eye drops and painkillers.

Morphine (Chapter 18)

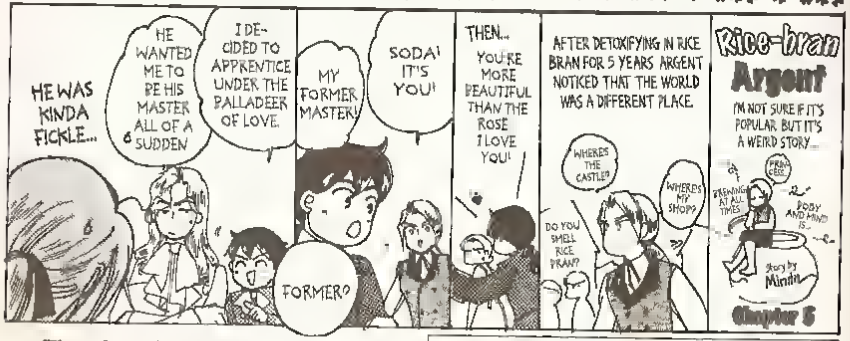
Opium is derived from the dried extracts of lacerated seed pods found in Opium Poppies. There are over 20 different types of alkaloids present in opium. Morphine was derived from opium in 1805, and it was named after orpheus, the God of Dreams.

The painkilling effects of opium are rapid and strong compared to other painkillers. However, the dosage and side effect can vary between individuals. In the 1970's, morphine was combined with wine, gum syrup, and water for oral ingestion. However, it is now administered more safely and effectively through transdermal patches, suppositories, and injections.

Gobaishi (Chapter 20)

A bug creates gallnuts on the young leaves of Rhus javanica, aka Japanese Sumac. The gallnut contains a lot of tannins, and have been used to tan leather, make dyes for traditional Japanese clothing, ink, and hair dye. It was also used to lacquer the teeth of married Japanese women long ago.

Gobaishi is the name for traditional Japanese medicine. It is created in the fall, when the gallnut is broken and boiled before the insects emerge. It is then dried and prepared. It has astringent, styptic and anti-bacterial properties.


HE WAS KINDA FICKLE...
HE WANTED ME TO BE HIS MASTER ALL OF A SUDDEN
I DECIDED TO APPRENTICE UNDER THE PALLADEER OF LOVE.
FORMER?
MY FORMER MASTER!
SODA! IT'S YOU!
THEN...
YOU'RE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE ROSE I LOVE YOU!
AFTER DETOXIFYING IN RICE BRAN FOR 5 YEARS ARGENT NOTICED THAT THE WORLD WAS A DIFFERENT PLACE.
WHERE'S THE CASTLE?
WHERE'S MY SHOP?
DO YOU SMELL RICE BRAN?
Rice-bran Argent
I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S POPULAR, BUT IT'S A WEIRD STORY...
PRAYING
BODY AND MIND IS...
Story by Minmi
Chapter 5

The shocking truth continues...

Apothecarius Argentum c/o CMX
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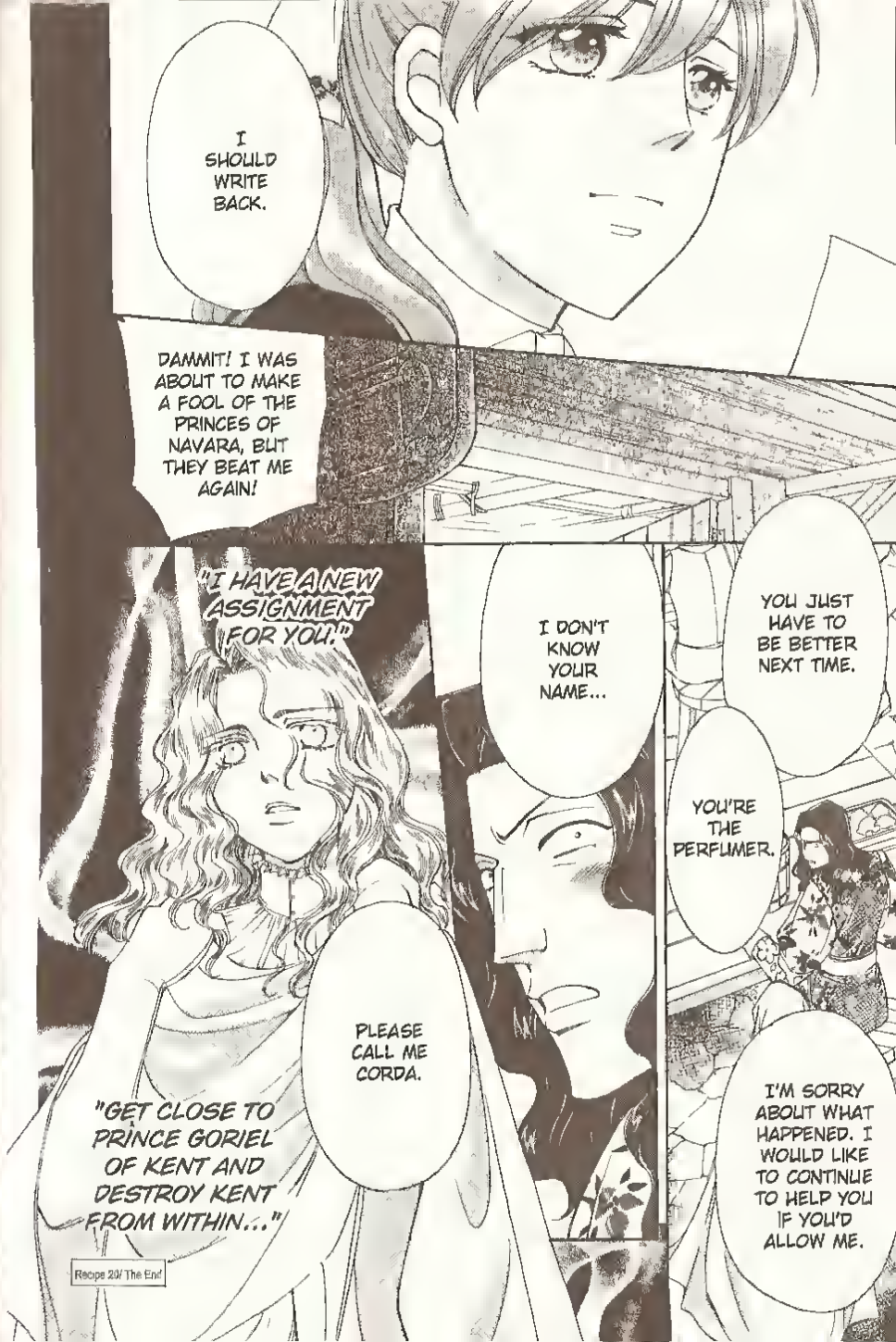
I SHOULD WRITE BACK.
DAMMIT! I WAS ABOUT TO MAKE A FOOL OF THE PRINCES OF NAVARA, BUT THEY BEAT ME AGAIN!
"I HAVE A NEW ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU."
I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME...
YOU JUST HAVE TO BE BETTER NEXT TIME.
YOU'RE THE PERFUMER.
PLEASE CALL ME CORDA.
"GET CLOSE TO PRINCE GORIEL OF KENT AND DESTROY KENT FROM WITHIN..."
I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO HELP YOU IF YOU'D ALLOW ME.
Recipe 20/ The End